

The Valley of Fear

Sherlock Holmes is called in to help solve a mysterious murder in Sussex, England, but the motives for the crime originated years before in a place known as 'the Valley of Fear' across the Atlantic.

This reader uses the **EXPANSIVE READING** approach, where the text becomes a springboard to improve language skills and to explore historical background, cultural connections and other topics suggested by the text. As well as the story, parts of which are recorded in American English, this reader contains:

- An introduction about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and his life
- A wide range of activities practising the four skills
- Dossiers: *Secret Societies* and *Hiding Places*
- Internet projects
- FCE-style activities
- Trinity-style activities (Grade 7)
- A full recording of the text
- An exit test and key on our website



Step One	■	CEFR A2	Exam Level KET
Step Two	■	CEFR B1.1	Exam Preparation PET
Step Three	■	CEFR B1.2	Exam Level PET
Step Four	■	CEFR B2.1	Exam Preparation FCE
Step Five	■	CEFR B2.2	Exam Level FCE
Step Six	■	CEFR C1	Exam Preparation CAE

This volume without the side coupon is to be considered a sample copy not for sale.

ISBN 978-88-530-0614-1



9 788853 006141

Book + CD € 9,80

READING & TRAINING

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

The Valley of Fear



AUDIO CD



Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
THE VALLEY OF FEAR
ISBN 978-88-530-0614-1
BLACK CAT PUBLISHING
BLACK CIDEB

BLACK CAT

Editor: Tess Vaughan
Design and art direction: Nadia Maestri
Computer graphics: Simona Corniola
Picture research: Laura Lagomarsino

© 2008 Black Cat Publishing,
an imprint of Cideb Editrice, Genoa, Canterbury

First edition: February 2008

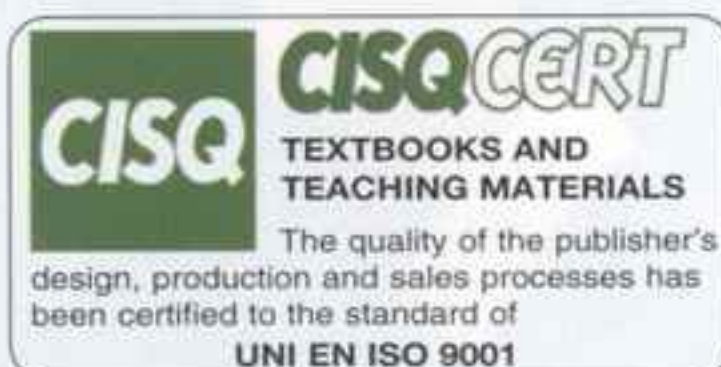
Picture credits:

Cideb Archive; The National Portrait Gallery, London: 4;
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division
Washington, DC: 5 ; © Archivio Iconografico, SA/Corbis:
79; © Peter Aprahamian/Corbis: 81 .

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced,
stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or
by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying,
recording or otherwise, without the written permission of
the publisher.

We would be happy to receive your comments and
suggestions, and give you any other information concerning
our material.

editorial@blackcat-cideb.com
www.blackcat-cideb.com
www.cideb.it



ISBN 978-88-530-0615-8 Book
ISBN 978-88-530-0614-1 Book + CD

Printed in Italy by Litoprint, Genoa

Contents

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle 4

Part One **THE TRAGEDY OF BIRLSTONE**

CHAPTER ONE	A Warning	11
CHAPTER TWO	Murder at Birlstone	21
CHAPTER THREE	The People of the Drama	33
CHAPTER FOUR	The Missing Dumbbell	43
CHAPTER FIVE	The Mystery is Solved	53

Part Two **THE SCOWRERS**

CHAPTER ONE	Vermissa	70
CHAPTER TWO	Meeting Boss McGinty	84
CHAPTER THREE	Lodge 341, Vermissa	95
CHAPTER FOUR	The Valley of Fear	104
CHAPTER FIVE	Birdy Edwards's Trap	114

Dossiers	Hiding Places	63
	Secret Societies	79

@ INTERNET PROJECTS	82, 123
----------------------------	---------


ACTIVITIES	7, 10, 17, 28, 39, 48, 60, 66, 69, 76, 82, 91, 100, 110, 120
-------------------	---

AFTER READING	124
----------------------	-----

FCE Cambridge FCE-style activities	17, 20, 30, 31, 32, 48, 49, 51, 60, 61, 78, 92, 100, 112, 121
---	--

T: GRADE 7 Trinity-style activities	93
--	----

This story is recorded in full.

 These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the passages
linked to the listening activities.





Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1927) by Henry L. Gates.

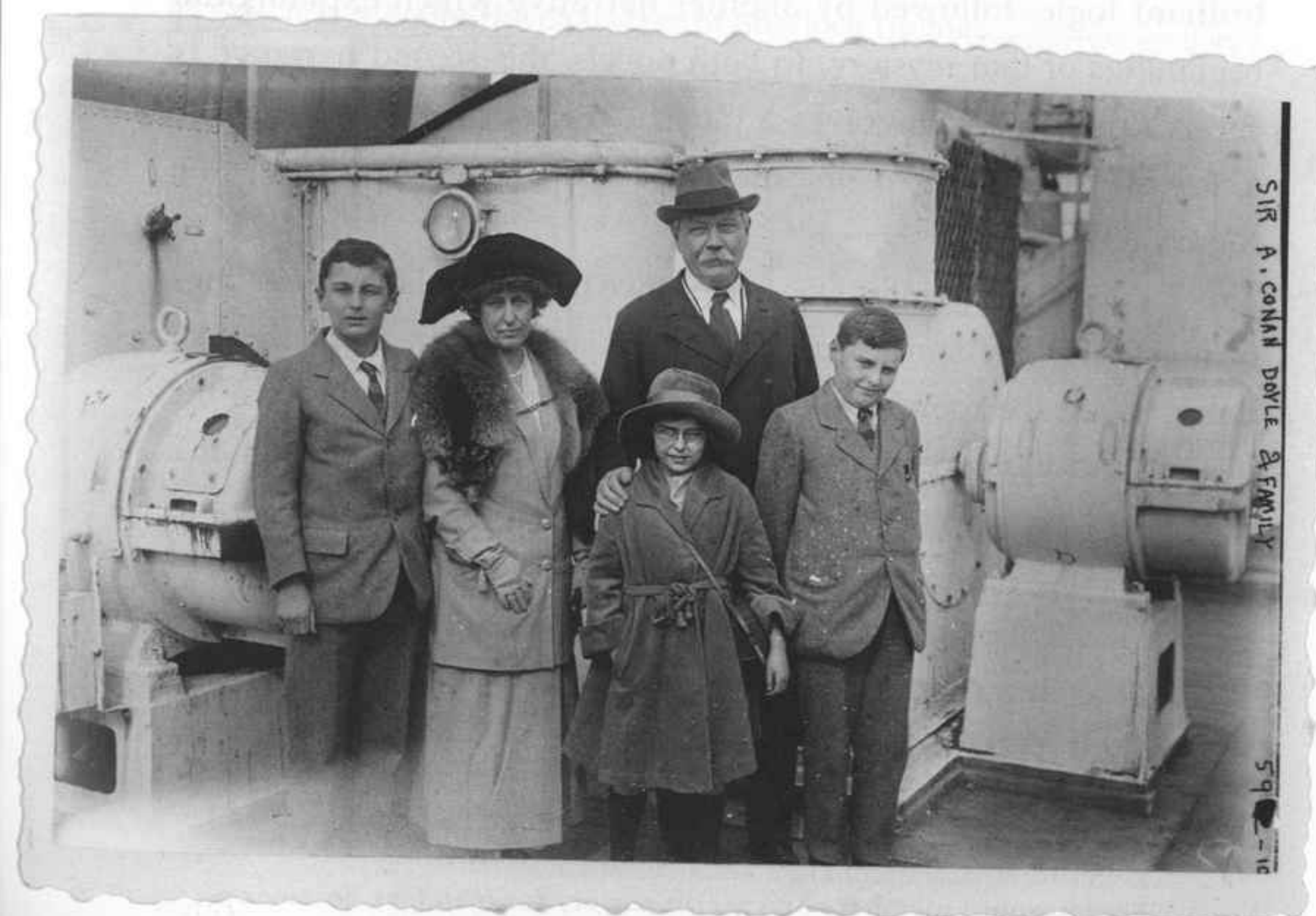
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Arthur Conan Doyle was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1859 and died in 1930. He had a very busy and varied life, with different careers and interests. He was an active and creative man but is still probably best known for his creation of the characters of Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson.

Conan Doyle came from a large family: he was the second of ten children of Charles and Mary Doyle. He was born in the same year as the publication of Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species*. Although he was born in Edinburgh, Doyle was educated primarily in

Lancashire, England. He returned to Edinburgh to attend university, where he studied to be a doctor. He was taught by a man called Joseph Bell; it is thought that the character of Sherlock Holmes is based largely on Dr Bell and his methods of working.

Conan Doyle worked as a doctor in various towns for a while and then took work as a doctor on ships going to Greenland and West Africa. He then started working in a practice of his own in Southsea, England, where he also began his career as a writer. In 1885, he married Louise Hawkins, with whom he had two children, Mary Louise in 1889 and Kingsley in 1892. In 1893, his wife Louise became ill with tuberculosis. His father, Charles Doyle, died in the same year.



Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and his family.

In 1897, Conan Doyle met and fell in love with Jean Leckie. Louise Conan Doyle died from her illness in 1906 and Conan Doyle married Jean Leckie the following year. The couple went on to have two sons, Denis (1909) and Adrian (1910), and a daughter, Jean (1912).

The character of Sherlock Holmes first appeared in *A Study in Scarlet* in 1887. *The Valley of Fear* was first published in serialised form in the magazine *The Strand* in 1914. It was later published in book form in 1915. Although it is one of Conan Doyle's later works, the structure of *The Valley of Fear* is very similar to that of *A Study in Scarlet*, the first Sherlock Holmes story. In both novels, there is the investigation of a mystery which Holmes solves by careful consideration and brilliant logic, followed by another narrative which explains the beginnings of that mystery. In both novels, this second narrative is set in America and involves a particular group of people; in *The Valley of Fear* it is the Freemasons¹ and in *A Study in Scarlet* it is the Mormons.²

The Sherlock Holmes stories perhaps owe their popularity to feelings of nostalgia. The stories generally start and end in the setting of Baker Street; the rooms are presented as a safe place away from the danger and violence of the outside world. They were written at a time when the world believed in the good of science, rationality and progress. However, we read the stories now with the knowledge of what science, progress and rationality led to: the horror of the First World War, the evil rationality and efficiency of the Holocaust and the atomic bomb.

1. **Freemasons** : members of a secret society for men (see dossier on page 79).
2. **Mormons** : members of a religious group which originated in the United States in 1830.

Conan Doyle's eldest son, Kingsley, died from pneumonia in 1918 after being injured in the First World War. Conan Doyle himself made several visits to the front line areas and wrote accounts of the British campaign in France. His last book, *The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes*, was a collection of short stories and was published in 1927. Conan Doyle died of heart disease aged 71.

1 Comprehension check

Complete these sentences about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's life.

- 1 Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was the second
- 2 It is thought the character of Sherlock Holmes
- 3 Conan Doyle worked as
- 4 He married twice: once to and then to
- 5 *The Valley of Fear* first appeared in
- 6 *The Valley of Fear* is very similar to
- 7 The Sherlock Holmes stories often start and end
- 8 The Sherlock Holmes stories were written at a time
- 9 Kingsley was Conan Doyle's
- 10 Conan Doyle died in

The Characters



From left to right: John Douglas, Inspector MacDonald, Cecil Barker, Mr White, Mrs Allen, Mrs Douglas, Ames, Sherlock Holmes, Sergeant Wilson, Doctor Watson

Part One

THE TRAGEDY OF BIRLSTONE



Before you read

1 Sherlock Holmes

You are about to read a detective story in which Sherlock Holmes has to solve a crime. Work in small groups to answer the following questions.

What do you already know about Sherlock Holmes? Think about:

- 1 when and where he lived
- 2 if he worked alone or with someone
- 3 any clothes, objects or phrases that are associated with him

2 Reading pictures

Turn to the picture on page 15. It shows the scene of the crime you are going to read about. Examine the picture carefully and make a list of words that you think could be in this chapter. In your list try to include verbs, nouns, adjectives, etc. Once you have finished reading, go back and see how many words in your list appeared in the chapter.

3 Vocabulary

The following words all appear in the story you are about to read. Can you match them to their definitions?


- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| A clue | C weapon | E warning | G mastermind |
| B witness | D prevent | F victim | H footprint |

- 1 ☐ information that helps you find the answer to a problem or mystery
- 2 ☐ somebody who makes perfect plans for a very difficult activity, often a crime
- 3 ☐ an object used to hurt or kill someone
- 4 ☐ something that tells you about possible danger in the near future
- 5 ☐ to stop something from happening
- 6 ☐ someone who has been hurt or killed
- 7 ☐ the mark left by a shoe
- 8 ☐ a person who sees an event happening (often a crime)



CHAPTER ONE

A Warning

A letter arrived for Sherlock Holmes. We were sitting in our rooms at 221b Baker Street. 

'It's Porlock's writing,' he said. 'It must be very important.'

'Who is Porlock?' I asked.

'Porlock is just a name: it's not his real one. He is a man who is in touch with ¹ the great criminal mastermind, Professor Moriarty. You've heard me talk about him?'

'Yes, he's famous among criminals but unknown to the public.'

'That's right. He's the "brain" that controls all crime; we'll catch him one day, Watson.'

'Anyway, what about this letter and Porlock?'

'He works for Professor Moriarty. He has sent me information twice before which has helped to prevent crimes.'

Holmes opened the letter and read it. The message said that a

1. in touch with : in contact with.

man called Douglas at Birlstone Manor House was in great danger.

There was a knock at the door and Inspector MacDonald of Scotland Yard walked in. Holmes looked pleased to see him.

'You're out early,' he said.

But the inspector had stopped suddenly. He was staring at ¹ the message.

'Douglas! Birlstone? What's this, Mr Holmes? Magic? How did you get those names?'

'Why?' asked Holmes. 'What's wrong with those names?'

'Mr Douglas of Birlstone Manor House was murdered this morning.'

Sherlock Holmes explained to the inspector how he had just received the letter.

'I was on my way to Birlstone,' said the inspector. 'I came to ask if you and Doctor Watson wanted to come with me but, from what you say about this Porlock, we'll find out more in London.'

'I don't think so,' said Holmes.

'Well, if there's a man in London who knew about the crime before it happened, then we need to find him!'

'And how do you suggest we find Porlock?' asked Holmes. 'I don't know him, I've never seen him, I don't know where he is and, what's more, I know that Professor Moriarty is involved. We'll find nothing in London, MacDonald, we must go to Birlstone to solve this crime.'

The inspector stood up.

1. **staring at** : looking at very intensely.

'Let's go. Can you be ready in five minutes?'

On our way down to Birlstone, the inspector told us what he knew about the case, which was not very much. John Douglas of Birlstone Manor House was shot in the head with a shotgun. ¹ It happened at around midnight the night before. The police had not yet arrested anyone.

Birlstone was a small village in Sussex. About half a mile from the village was the Manor House of Birlstone. It was a very old house, built in the seventeenth century. A moat ² surrounded the house. The only way to get into the house was over the drawbridge. ³ This drawbridge was raised every night and lowered every morning by the owners of the Manor House. This meant that the house was like an island during the night. This was a very important fact in the mystery at Birlstone.

The owners were Mr John Douglas and his wife. Douglas was a handsome American man about fifty years old. He was popular in the village because he was friendly and also rich. He had earned his money in California, then came to live in England, where he met his wife.

Mrs Douglas was a beautiful woman, about twenty years younger than her husband. They were very happy together, although it seemed that Mrs Douglas did not know everything about her husband's past.

1. **shotgun** : a gun used for shooting birds and animals.

2. **moat** : a deep, wide channel of water surrounding a house or a castle.

3. **drawbridge** : a bridge over a moat which can be raised or lowered.

There was one other person who often stayed with the couple and was also at the Manor House at the time of the murder. His name was Cecil Barker. He was a good friend of John Douglas and was the only person from Douglas's unknown past life. Although Barker was English, he had met John Douglas in America. Barker was friendly with both Douglas and his wife. Sometimes his friendship with Mrs Douglas seemed to irritate John Douglas. The other people who were in the house at the time of the murder were Ames the butler¹ and Mrs Allen the housekeeper.²

It was at eleven forty-five at night on 6th January that Cecil Barker told Sergeant Wilson at the local police station that someone had murdered Mr John Douglas.

When he reached the house, Sergeant Wilson found the drawbridge down and everyone was confused and alarmed. Only Cecil Barker seemed calm and in control.

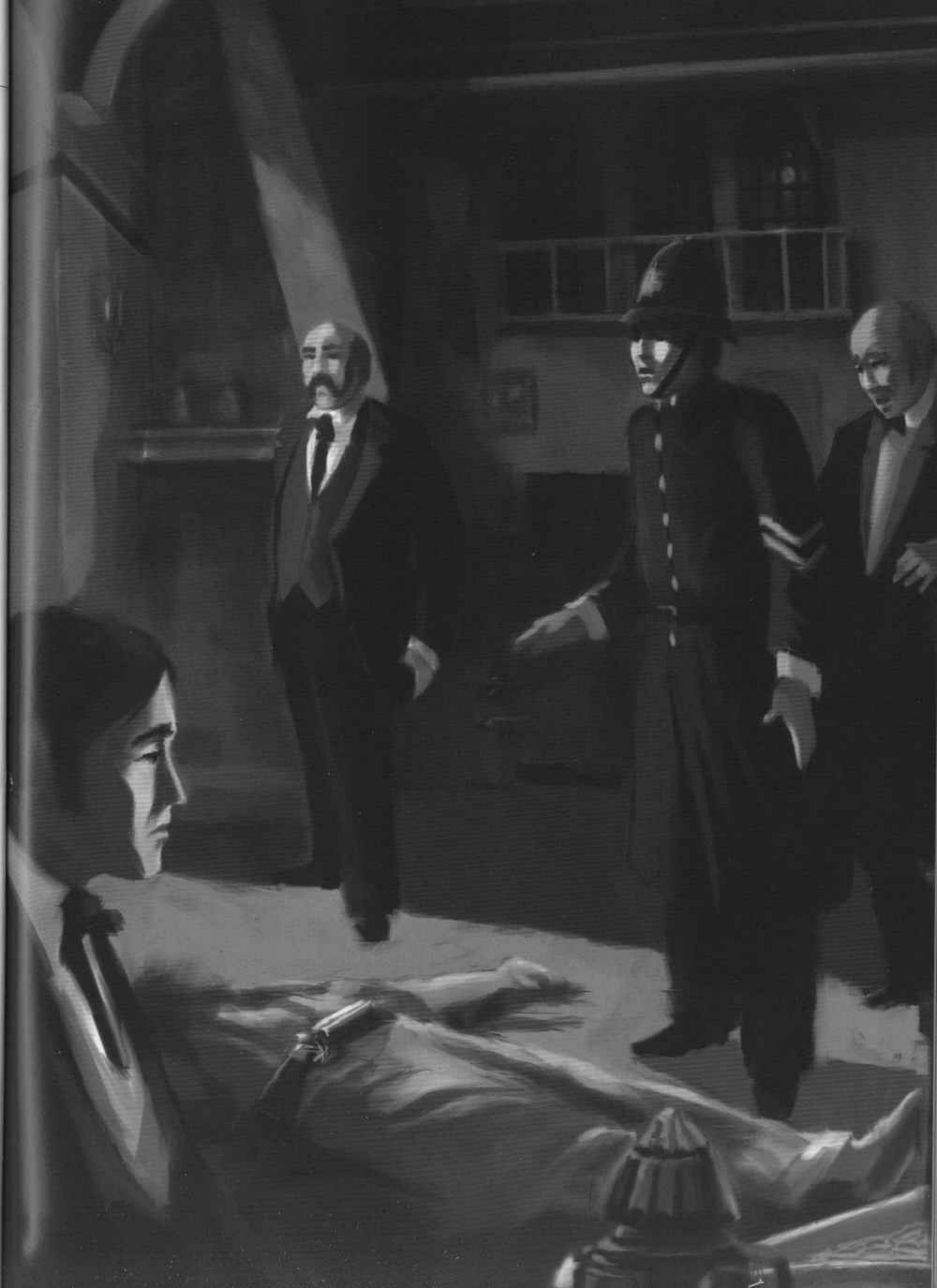
The dead man was in the centre of the room, lying on his back. The shotgun was lying on his chest; the end of the gun was sawn off.³ The murderer had fired the gun very close to his victim and the shot had almost blown his head to pieces. The doctor was called but he knew there was nothing he could do.

The country policeman was not used to such serious crime.

'We won't touch anything until the officers from London arrive,' he said.

'I haven't touched anything,' said Cecil Barker. 'This is exactly

1. **butler** : the most important male servant in a rich house.
2. **housekeeper** : the female servant in charge of the general organisation of a rich house.
3. **sawn off** : cut short.



as I found it. It was just after half past eleven and I was sitting in my bedroom when I heard the shot. It wasn't very loud. I rushed down.'

'Was the door open?'

'Yes, it was open. Douglas was lying just as you see him now. There was a candle burning on the table. I lit the lamp.'

'Did you see anyone?'

'No, I heard Mrs Douglas coming down the stairs behind me and I rushed out to stop her from seeing this terrible sight.'

'But wasn't the drawbridge raised as usual?'

'Yes, it was up until I lowered it,' said Barker.

'Then how could the murderer have got away?'

'Look.' Barker pulled back the curtain. One of the windows was wide open. 'Look at this.' He pointed to a blood stain¹ that was shaped like a footprint. 'Someone has climbed out here.'

'You think that someone waded² across the moat?'

'Exactly.'

'Well, you were in the room half a minute after the murder, so this means that he was in the water then.'

'I know. I didn't know the window was open because it was hidden by the curtain.'

The policeman was thinking.

'You're saying that the man escaped by wading across the moat. But how did he get into the house if the drawbridge was up?'

'That's a good question,' agreed Barker.

1. **stain** : a mark that is very difficult to remove.

2. **waded** : walked through water.

The text and **beyond**

FCE 1 Comprehension check

For questions 1-7 choose the correct answer — A, B, C or D.

1 Who is telling this story?

- A ☐ Dr Watson
- B ☐ Sherlock Holmes
- C ☐ John Douglas
- D ☐ Inspector MacDonald

2 Who wrote the letter to Sherlock Holmes?

- A ☐ a man who worked for Professor Moriarty
- B ☐ England's greatest criminal mind
- C ☐ a man who knew a lot about Mr Douglas
- D ☐ a famous criminal called Porlock.

3 Why is Inspector MacDonald surprised about the names 'Douglas' and 'Birlstone'?

- A ☐ Mr Douglas of Birlstone Manor House was the murderer.
- B ☐ They were the name and address of the victim.
- C ☐ Only Scotland Yard had those names.
- D ☐ No one could know those names except Moriarty.

4 Why did Holmes disagree with the inspector about going to London?

- A ☐ It would be impossible to find Professor Moriarty.
- B ☐ They could not be sure of finding the writer of the letter.
- C ☐ He wanted to go to Birlstone immediately.
- D ☐ The crime had happened in Birlstone, not in London.

5 Which of these sentences best describes the position of the house?

- A ☐ It was in the centre of a small village.
- B ☐ It was on a small island near a castle.
- C ☐ It was next to a castle in the countryside.
- D ☐ It was about half a mile from a small village.

- 6 What do we learn about Cecil Barker?
- A ☐ He was Mr and Mrs Douglas's closest friend.
- B ☐ He had a strange friendship with Mrs Douglas.
- C ☐ He was the only person that knew about John Douglas's past.
- D ☐ He was unknown to John Douglas.
- 7 According to Barker, how did the man get into the house if the drawbridge was up?
- A ☐ He waded through the moat.
- B ☐ He climbed through the window.
- C ☐ Barker did not know.
- D ☐ He hid behind a curtain.

2 Complete the sentences

How do these objects relate to the murder? Complete sentences 1-4 about the victim and the circumstances of the murder and match them to a picture (A-D).



A



B



C



D

- 1 The victim was
- 2 The victim was killed
- 3 When the victim was found
- 4 The murderer probably escaped

3 Characters

Find the people in Chapter One who these sentences refer to. The first one has been done for you (O).

- O He is known by criminals but not by the public. *Professor Moriarty*
- 1 He lives in 221B Baker Street with Holmes.

- 2 He is in contact with a famous criminal mind.
- 3 He is inspecting the case for Scotland Yard.
- 4 He is popular in the village.
- 5 She is a very beautiful woman.
- 6 He often visits the Manor House.

- 4 Porlock is not the real name of the writer of the letter. Why do you think he doesn't want anyone to know his real name?

5 Names quiz

- A The terms 'pen name' and 'stage name' both refer to invented names people use instead of their real ones. What is the difference between these two terms? Find these words in a dictionary to help you.
- B Can you guess the real names of the famous people below? Join the correct two names together and then match them to the professions (A-D). (You can check your answers in the key at the back of the book.)

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Edson do Nascimento | Marilyn Monroe |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Reginald Dwight | Steven King |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Richard Bachman | Bono |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Caryn Johnson | Whoopi Goldberg |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Paul Hewson | Elton John |
| 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Norma Jean Mortensen | Pelé |

A singer B actress C writer D sportsman

6 Discussion

Discuss the questions below with another student.

- 1 Can you think of any famous people in your country that have a different name to their real name?
Yes, is really called
- 2 Would you change your name if you could? What would you call yourself?
If I could change my name I would like to be called ...

FCE 7 A great criminal mind – Jonathan Wild

For questions 1-10, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of each line to form a word that fits in the space in the same line. There is an example at the beginning (0).

One of the (0) *greatest*..... criminal minds in England's history was a man named Jonathan Wild. Jonathan Wild (1) in the early 18th century. Many people wrote about him during his time and after it. He was one of the first men to use other (2) to commit crimes for him while keeping his position as a (3) member of society.

Jonathan Wild came to know many criminals during the time he spent in prison for a minor (4) Wild (5) a gang of thieves. They stole things and Wild paid them. He waited until the newspapers reported the theft and then contacted the (6) of the objects to tell them that men called 'thief-takers' (modern-day policemen) had caught the thief. However, he also told them that they had an (7) to pay some money for the cost of finding the (8) objects.

He became rich and (9) and the public thought he worked with the police. They were also afraid of Wild and his men and so he continued to control crime in London for a long time.

Eventually he was caught, but only when the (10) decided it was time to put an end to his criminal genius.

GREAT

LIVE

CRIME

RESPECT

OFFEND

CONTROL

OWN

OBLIGE

STEAL

SUCCESS

GOVERN

Before you read

1 Reading pictures

Look at the picture on page 23 and answer the questions.

- Describe the room and the people in it.
- Describe the mark on the dead man's arm. Why do you think he has this mark?
- What do you think the people in the room are saying?

CHAPTER TWO

Murder at Birlstone

'What time was the bridge raised?' asked the policeman.

'It was six o'clock,' said Ames the butler. 'Mrs Douglas had visitors so I raised it after they left.'

'So if anyone came in from outside – if they did – then they came into the house before six and hid there until Mr Douglas came into the room at about eleven o'clock.'

'That's right. Mr Douglas always checked all the lights in the house before he went to bed. He came in here, where the man was waiting to shoot him. Then the murderer got away through the window and left the gun behind. That's what I think.'

The policeman picked up a card which was lying on the floor beside the dead man. The initials V.V. and the number 341 were written on the card.

'What's this?' asked the policeman.

Barker looked at it.

'I didn't notice it before. The murderer probably left it behind.'

'V.V. 341. What does it mean? Somebody's initials, maybe.'

The policeman walked slowly around the room. He pulled back

a window curtain. 'Look at this!' he said excitedly. 'Someone was hiding here, look at these muddy footprints.'¹

'What's this mark on his arm?' asked the doctor.

On the dead man's right arm was a strange brown design: a triangle inside a circle.

'It's not a tattoo,' said the doctor. 'I've never seen anything like it. This mark has been burnt onto the man. What does it mean?'

'I don't know what it means but Douglas has had that mark for at least ten years,' said Cecil Barker.

'Yes,' agreed the butler. 'I've often noticed it and wondered what it is.'

'Then it has nothing to do with the crime anyway,' said the policeman. The butler suddenly gave a shout of surprise.

'What is it now?' said the policeman.

'They've taken his wedding ring! He always wore his wedding ring below this other one with the snake on it,' said the butler.

'You mean that the murderer first took off this snake ring, then the wedding ring and afterwards put the snake ring back on again?'

'It looks that way,' said the butler.

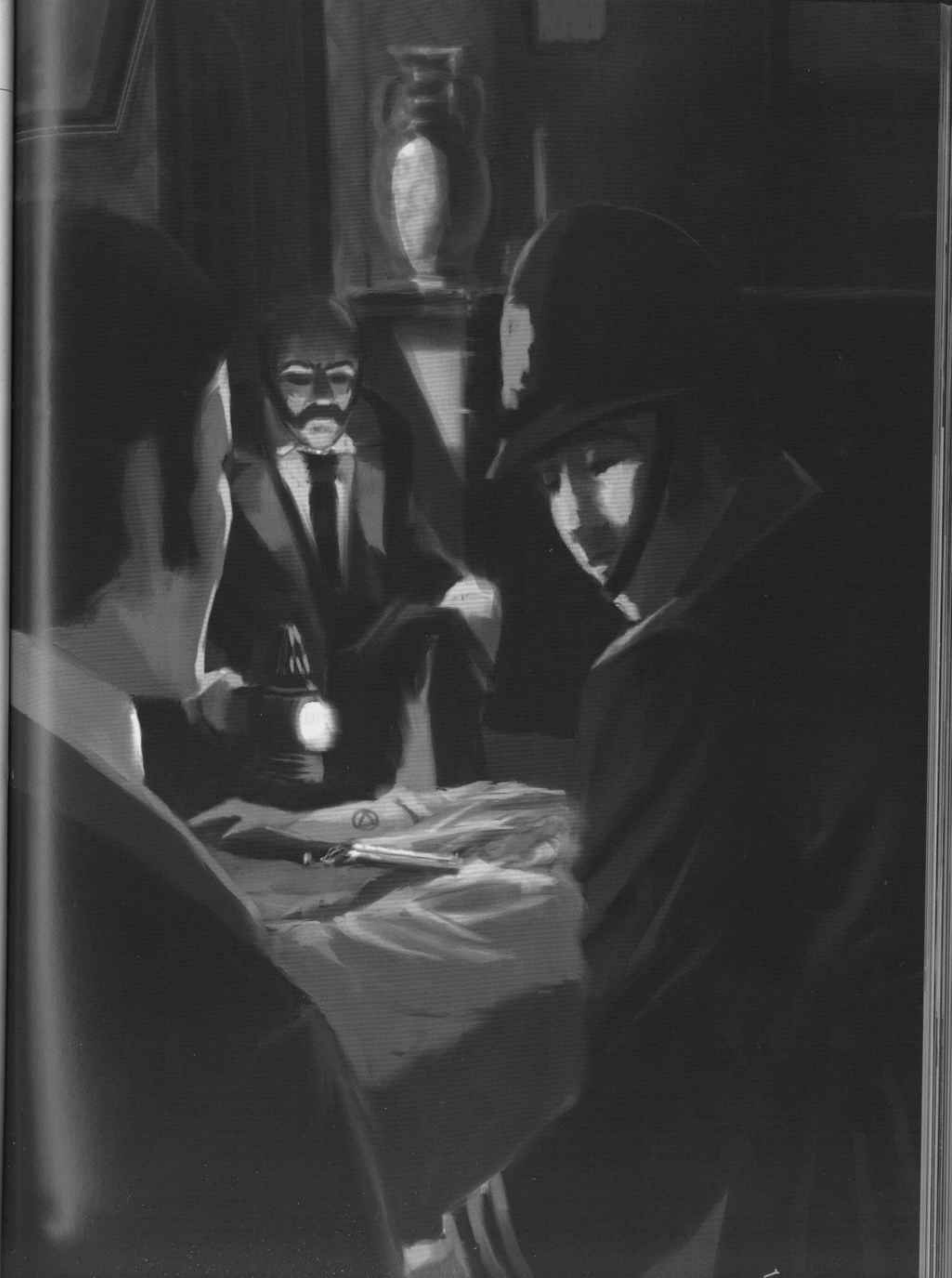
The policeman shook his head. 'The sooner the London police get here the better,' he said.

The Chief Detective for Sussex was Mr Mason. He was waiting for us at the railway station in Birlstone the next day.

'A very interesting case, MacDonald,' he said. He took us to our hotel. We sat down and Mason told us the details. Sherlock Holmes listened carefully.

'So what have you discovered so far?' he said when Mason had finished.

1. **muddy footprints** : marks made by shoes covered in wet earth.



'I examined the shotgun,' said Mason. 'The gun wasn't very long and could easily be hidden under a coat. It was made in America. The butler says he has never seen it in the house before. It suggests that the stranger who entered the house and killed Douglas is American.'

MacDonald shook his head.

'I've heard nothing that proves that a stranger was even in the house.'

'What about the open window, the blood by the window, the muddy footprints?'

'They are all things which can be set up.¹ The business with the ring and the card suggests premeditated murder² for a private reason. But why would the murderer choose such a noisy weapon³ if he wanted to get away unnoticed? What do you think, Holmes?'

'It does seem strange,' agreed Holmes. 'Can we go to the house now? There may be some clues⁴ that will help us,' he added.

We walked through the village towards Birlstone Manor. Sergeant Wilson was still there.

'Anything new?' Mason asked the policeman.

'No, sir.'

'Then go home. You're tired. The butler can wait outside. Tell Cecil Barker and Mrs Douglas we want to talk to them in a short while. Now, I'll tell you what I think so far. I think it's murder. The question is, was it done by someone from outside or inside the house? It doesn't seem likely that it was someone inside the house: they did it at a time when the house was quiet but no one

1. **set up** : placed there on purpose.

2. **premeditated murder** : a murder that is planned in advance.

3. **weapon** : an object used to hurt or kill someone.

4. **clues** : things that help you to find an answer to a mystery or problem.

was asleep, and used the noisiest weapon possible, which hasn't been seen inside the house before. So we come back to the theory that it was done by someone from the outside.'

Holmes nodded¹ in agreement.

'So, the man gets into the house sometime between four thirty and six. He hid behind the curtain until about eleven, when Douglas entered the room. If the two men spoke, then it was not for long. Mrs Douglas said her husband had left her only a few minutes before she heard the shot.'

'The candle shows that. It's a new candle but it has only burnt down a little,' said Holmes.

'Exactly. That means he put it on the table before he was attacked. This shows he wasn't attacked as soon as he entered the room. When Barker arrived, the candle was lit and the lamp was out.'

'That all seems clear,' said Holmes.

'So Douglas enters the room. He puts down the candle. A man appears from behind the curtain with a gun. He asks for the wedding ring — we don't know why but it seems so. Mr Douglas gives it to him. Then the man shoots Douglas. He drops the gun and this card "V.V. 341", whatever that means, and then escapes through the window and across the moat, just as Cecil Barker discovers the crime. How does that sound, Mr Holmes?'

'Interesting, but not very believable,' said Holmes.

'What's your theory then, Holmes?'

'I'd like a few more facts before I come up with a theory,' said Holmes. 'Ames, can you come in here for a moment please?'

The butler came in. 'Now, you've seen this mark on Mr Douglas's arm before?'

1. **nodded** : moved head up and down, usually to say yes or show agreement.

'Often, sir,' agreed Ames.

'There is also a small piece of plaster¹ on Mr Douglas's chin. Did you see that when he was alive?' asked Holmes.

'Yes sir, he cut himself shaving yesterday morning,' said Ames.

'Did he often cut himself shaving?' asked Holmes.

'Not for a very long time, sir.'

'Interesting!' said Holmes. 'This might mean he was nervous and knew that he was in danger. Did you notice anything unusual in his behaviour yesterday, Ames?'

'He did seem a bit nervous, sir,' said the butler.

'So, perhaps the attack wasn't unexpected then. Now, what about the card — V.V. 341. What do you think that means, MacDonald?'

'It seems like a secret society of some sort. I thought the same about the mark on the arm.'

'Someone from a secret society gets into the house, kills Mr Douglas and leaves this card. The newspapers will report it, so other members of the society will know that vengeance² has been done. But why this gun? Why the missing ring? Why has no one been arrested yet?'

Holmes walked over to the window and examined the blood stain.

'It's a footprint but it looks very wide to me, wider than the other footprints over in the corner. What's this under the table?' asked Holmes, bending to pick up the object.

'Mr Douglas's dumbbells,'³ said Ames.

'Dumbbell,' corrected Holmes. 'There's only one of them. Where's the other?'

1. **plaster** : (here) a small strip of material for covering a cut or wound.

2. **vengeance** : the act or desire of taking revenge.

3. **dumbbells** : bars with weights at either end used for exercising, usually used in pairs.



'I don't know, Mr Holmes. Perhaps there was only one. I haven't noticed them for months.'

Holmes looked serious. 'One dumbbell...' He was interrupted by a knock on the door. Cecil Barker came in.

'Sorry to interrupt,' he said, 'but they've found his bicycle. The man left it behind. Come and look.'

The text and **beyond****1 Comprehension check**

Say whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F). Correct the false ones.

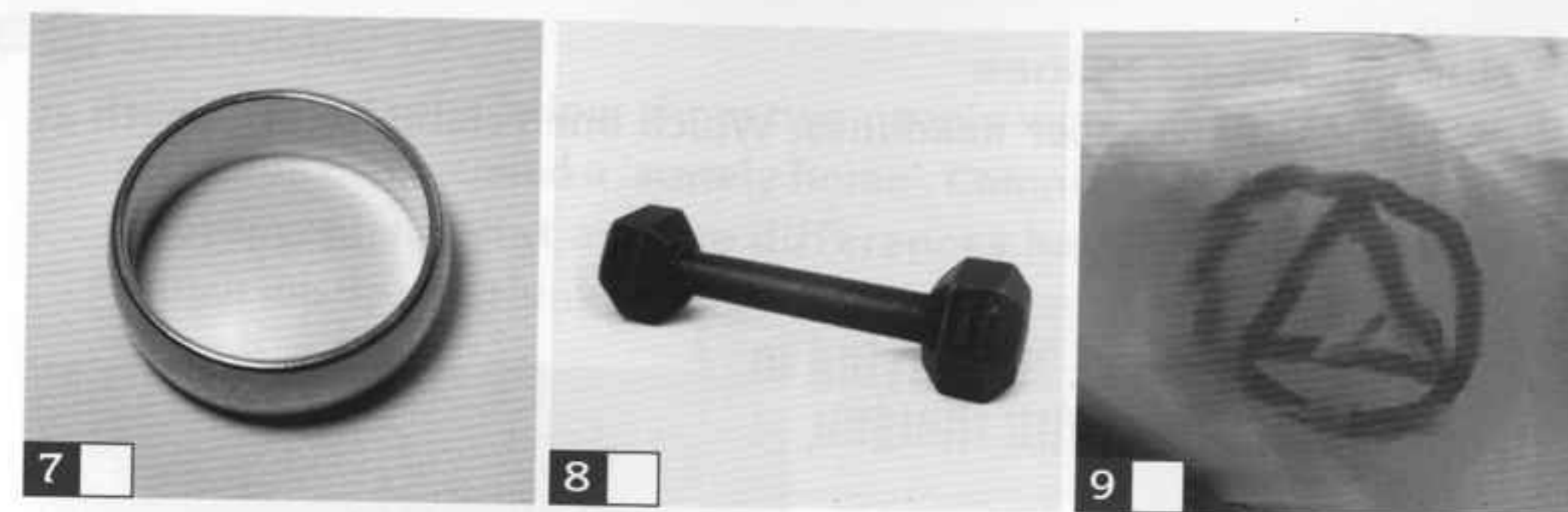
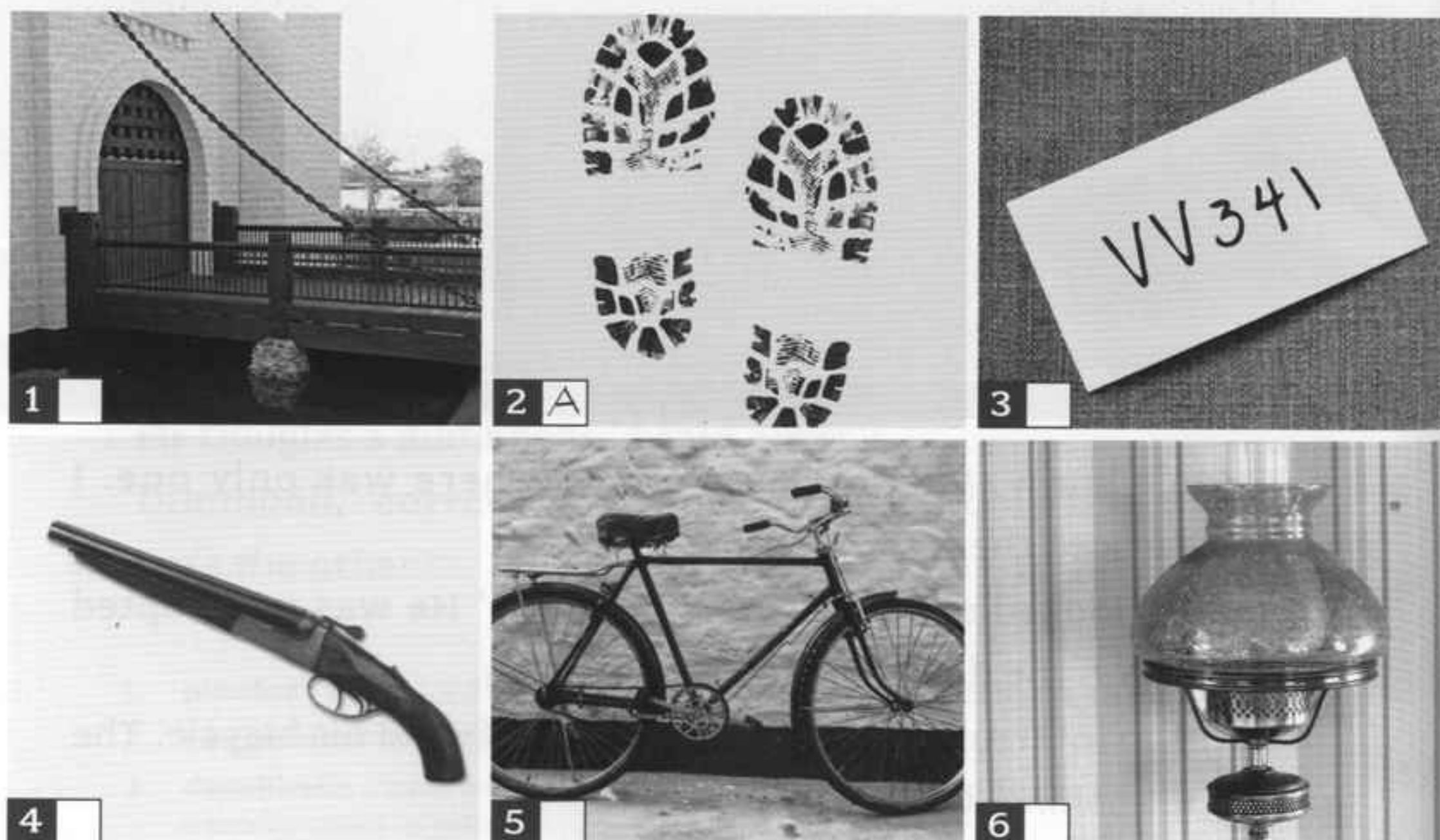
- The butler believed that the murderer did not enter the house after 6 p.m.
- The victim was wearing two rings when he was shot.
- The use of a gun shows it was premeditated murder.
- The candle in the room had burnt for several hours.
- The butler said Mr Douglas often cut himself when he was shaving.
- The card and the mark on the victim's arm suggest the involvement of a secret society.

T F

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2 Picture summary

Use the pictures (1-9) to help you complete the sentences about the events surrounding the murder (A-I). One has been done for you. Then put the sentences in the order they happened in Chapter Two.



- They saw that there were muddy footprints by the curtain.
- The was American, so the murderer was probably American too.
- The was raised at six o'clock, so the murderer probably hid in the house until eleven.
- Holmes was confused by why there was only one
- The murderer had taken the dead man's
- The police found a with the V.V. and the 341 written on it.
- When Barker arrived the candle was lit and the was out.
- Cecil Barker told them that a was found outside the house.
- The dead man had a strange on his arm. It was a in a

3 What do you think?

The detectives do not know all the answers. Think of possible explanations for the questions below.

- Why did the murderer use a gun?
- Why was the wedding ring missing?
- Why was there only one dumbbell?
- Why was the bicycle left behind?

4 Newspaper headlines

Read these newspaper headlines. Which one relates to the death at Birlstone Manor?

A Man dies in moat after trying to shoot owner with shotgun

B Man kills himself after wife has affair with best friend

C Villagers shocked by death of popular local Birlstone councillor

D RICH AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN FOUND DEAD IN COUNTRY MANSION



5 Listening

You will hear Mr Mason talking to Sergeant Wilson about what he saw at the scene of the crime. Complete the sentences below with the missing information.

- 1 I received the call at
- 2 When I arrived at the house, the
- 3 The people in the house were feeling and
- 4 Mr Pennyworth, the doctor, arrived
- 5 The murderer had shot the victim
- 6 In the room there was a card
- 7 The murderer probably hid
- 8 The murderer had time to take off the wedding ring and

FCE 6 Speaking

The photographs below show two people working at a large country mansion, often called a 'stately home'. Compare and contrast the two photographs. What are the differences between these two jobs? Which job do you think is harder? Give reasons for your answer.



7 Discussion

Answer the questions.

- 1 What jobs did servants use to do in a large house in the past?
- 2 Do these jobs still exist today? How have some of these jobs changed?
- 3 If you worked in a stately home, which job would you like to do? Give reasons for your answer.

Before you read



1 Listening

FCE

You will hear the first part of Chapter Three. For questions 1-5, choose the correct answer – A, B or C.

- 1 What question did Mason ask himself about the man who left the bicycle?
 - A ☐ 'How did he escape without it?'
 - B ☐ 'Why did he leave it behind the bushes?'
 - C ☐ 'Where did he go?'
- 2 What had Ames the butler heard?
 - A ☐ the shot of a gun
 - B ☐ Barker calling for the servants
 - C ☐ the bell for the servants
- 3 Who went with Mrs Douglas to her room?
 - A ☐ Mr Barker
 - B ☐ Ames
 - C ☐ the housekeeper
- 4 Who did Barker think might be responsible for Mr Douglas's death?
 - A ☐ a man in California
 - B ☐ a secret society
 - C ☐ a mining company
- 5 What was strange about Mr Douglas's behaviour?
 - A ☐ He thought someone was trying to kill him.
 - B ☐ He preferred to be alone.
 - C ☐ He left without telling anyone where he was going.



CHAPTER THREE

The People of the Drama

The bicycle was hidden behind some bushes.¹

'Well, it's something,' said Mason. 'But why has the man left it behind? How did he get away without it? We are no closer to solving this mystery, Holmes.'

'Aren't we?' answered Holmes thoughtfully.

We moved to the dining room to hear evidence from the people who were in the house at the time of the murder. Ames the butler told us what he had heard and seen. He had not heard the shot because he was at the back of the house in the kitchen. He heard the ringing of the bell which called for the servants of the house. He and the housekeeper went to the front of the house together. When they got to the bottom of the stairs, Mrs Douglas was coming down. She was not hurrying and she did not

1. **bushes** : a group of small, short trees or thick plants.



seem agitated. Then Mr Barker came rushing out of the study telling Mrs Douglas to go back.

'Go back to your room! John is dead! There is nothing you can do! Please go back to your room!'

Mrs Douglas did as he said. She did not scream. The housekeeper went with her. Barker and the butler went into the study, where they found everything just as the police had seen it. The candle was not lit at that time but the lamp was. They looked out of the window but it was very dark and they had seen and heard nothing. The housekeeper said that Mrs Douglas had been scared but had not tried to go downstairs. The housekeeper stayed with her that night.

Cecil Barker was next. He told the police his theory about the murder. There were some events in Douglas's life that he never spoke about. Barker had met Douglas, who was a widower¹ at the time, in California. They ran a successful mining² company together. Douglas had suddenly sold his share and gone to England. Afterwards, Barker also sold his share and went to England where he and John Douglas met again. Barker thought that Douglas was in some danger. He thought that a secret society was after John³ and wanted to kill him.

'How long were you together in California?' asked MacDonald.

'Five years altogether,' said Barker.

'And he was a widower, you said? Do you know where his first wife was from?' he asked.

1. **widower** : a man whose wife has died.

2. **mining** : the process of digging coal or precious minerals from the ground.

3. **was after John** : was following John and wanting to catch him.

'No, but I saw a picture of her. She was a very beautiful woman. She died the year before I met him.'

'Was there anything strange about him in California?'

'Only that he didn't like to be near other men. That's why I thought someone was after him. I think he had a warning of some sort, that's why he left so suddenly for Europe. Only a few days after he left, some men were asking about him,' said Barker.

'That was six years ago. Before that you were together for five years in California. Eleven years is a long time to keep a fight going. It was definitely something serious. Did you know Mrs Douglas before the marriage?'

'No, I didn't.'

'But you've seen a lot of her since?'

'What are you saying, detective? I've seen a lot of him since. And so of course I have become friends with Mrs Douglas.'

'Was Mr Douglas happy about your friendship with his wife?'

'You have no right to ask such questions!' said Barker angrily. The inspector waited.

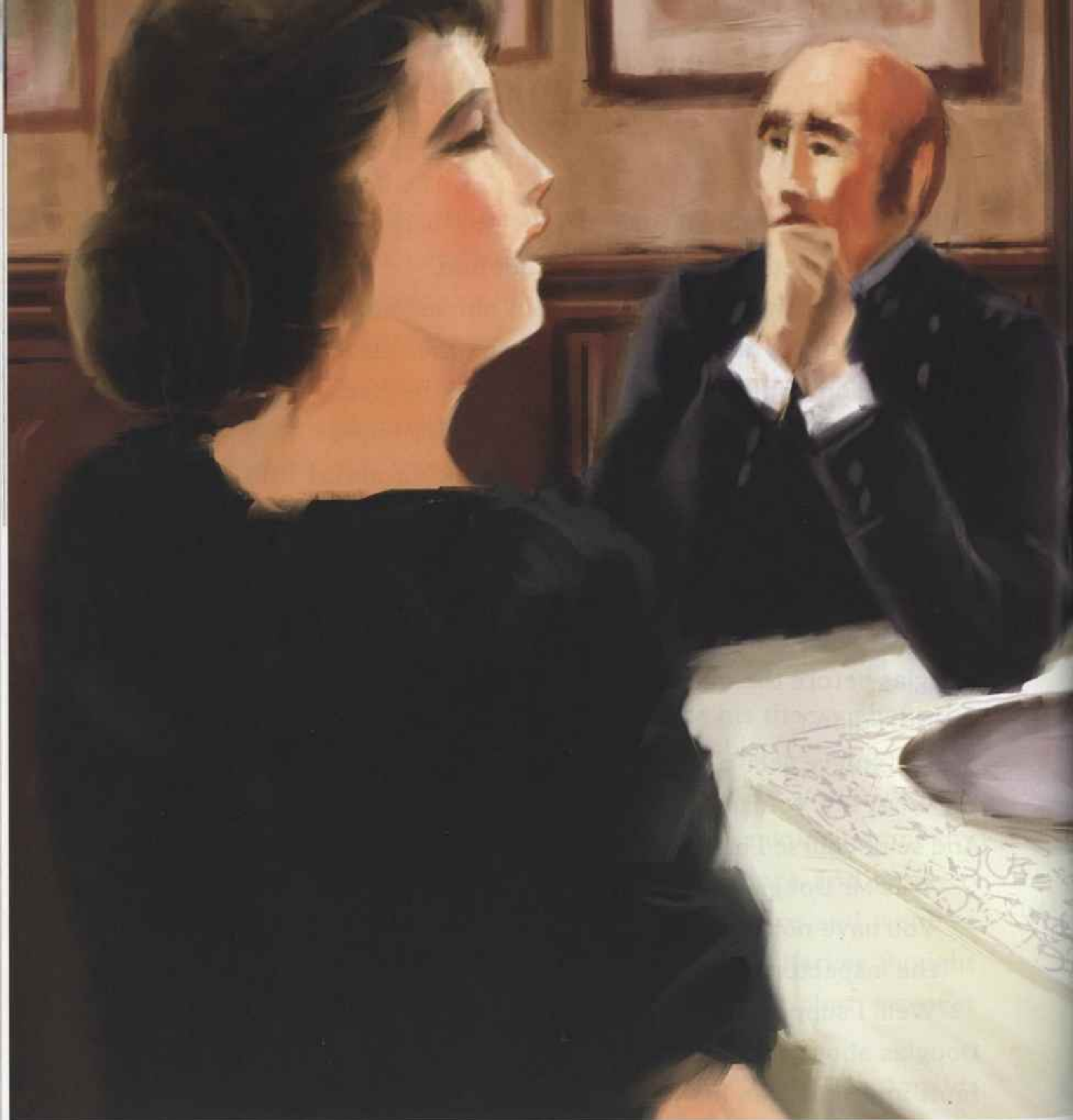
'Well, I suppose you have to do your job. Please don't ask Mrs Douglas about this. She is worried enough. Douglas had just one fault and that was his jealousy. But no man had a more loving and faithful wife or a more loyal friend.'

'But the fact that the wedding ring has gone suggests that the marriage and the murder are connected, don't you think?'

'I don't know what it suggests,' said Barker, 'but I think you're on the wrong track.'¹

1. **on the wrong track** : wrong in your way of thinking.

END

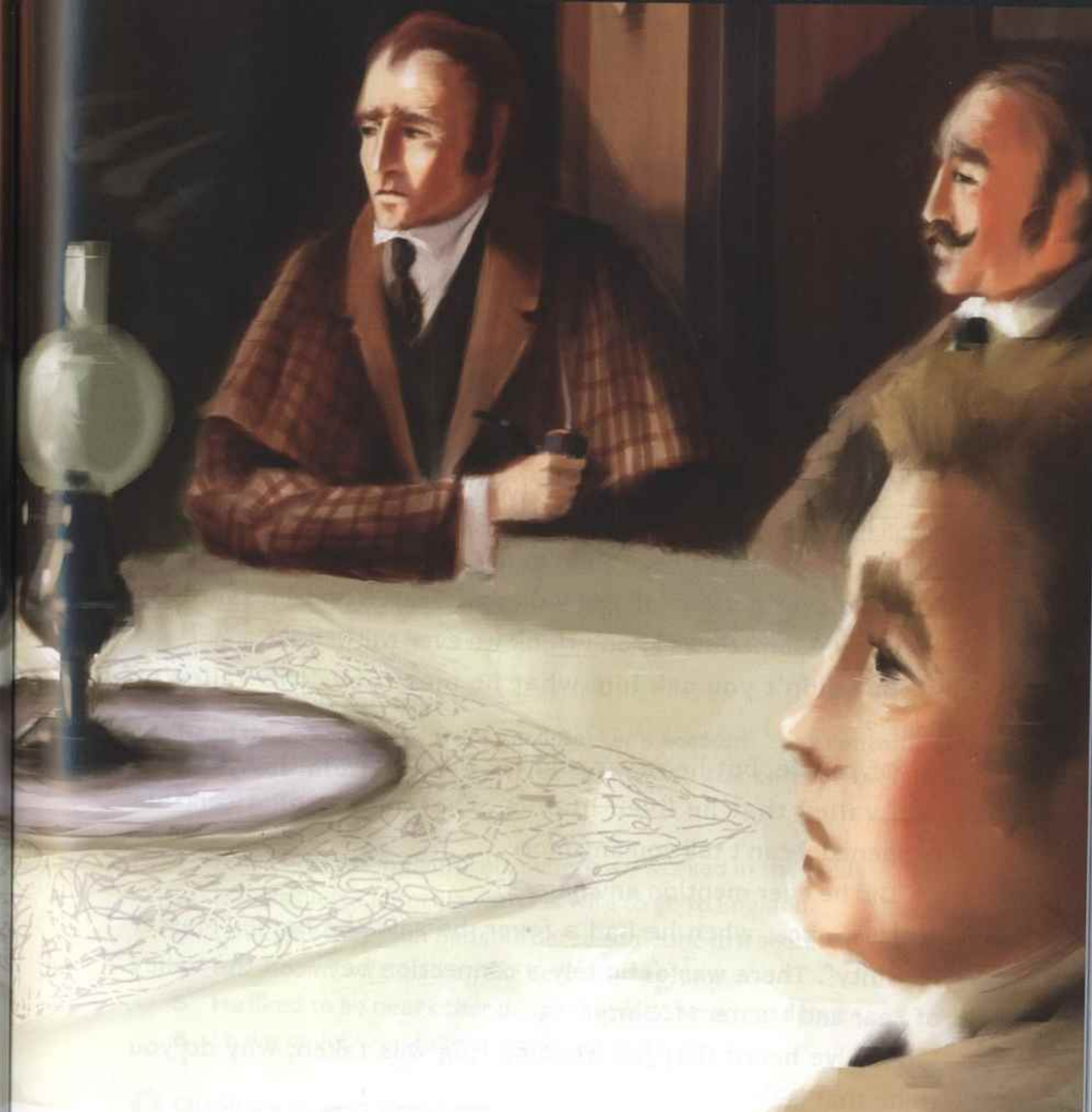


The next witness was Mrs Douglas. She was a tall, beautiful woman of thirty. Her face was very white but she seemed calm.

'Have you found anything out yet?' she asked.

'We are doing all we can, Mrs Douglas. Perhaps you may be able to help us. Mr Barker said that you were never actually in the room where the tragedy took place.'

'That's right. He told me to go back to my room.'



'You have only known your husband in England, is that right?'

'Yes, we've been married for five years.'

'Have you heard him speak of something that happened in America which may be dangerous for him?'

Mrs Douglas thought carefully before answering.

'Yes,' she said finally. 'I have always felt that there was some sort of danger from his past, but he didn't talk to me about it.'



THE VALLEY OF FEAR

PART ONE

'How did you know then?' asked the detective.

'In many ways,' she replied. 'Because of the way he didn't talk about some parts of his life in America. Because of some of the things he said. The way he looked at strangers. I always felt sure that he had some powerful enemies and that he was always ready to defend himself.'

'What sort of things did he say?' asked Sherlock Holmes.

'"The Valley of Fear",' replied Mrs Douglas. 'He said, "I have been in the Valley of Fear and I'm not out of it yet." I asked him, "Can we ever get out of the Valley of Fear?" and he said very seriously, "Sometimes I don't think we ever will".'

'But didn't you ask him what he meant by "the Valley of Fear"?'

'Of course, but he never told me. All I know is that it was a real valley that he lived in once where something terrible happened. I can't tell you any more.'

'Did he ever mention any names?'

'Yes, once, when he had a fever, he said the name "Master McGinty". There was definitely a connection between the Valley of Fear and Master McGinty.'

'You've heard that his wedding ring was taken; why do you think that is?'

'I really don't know,' she replied. 'It's an extraordinary thing.'

'Well, we won't keep you any longer. Thank you for your time, Mrs Douglas. If there is anything else, we can ask you later.'

Mrs Douglas left the room.

'She's a very beautiful woman,' said MacDonald thoughtfully. 'This man Barker has been here a lot. There may be something between them. He admits that the dead man was jealous. Then there's that wedding ring. What do you think, Mr Holmes?'

A C T I V I T I E S

The text and **beyond**

1 Comprehension check

Look again at the account of Ames, the butler. Complete the sentences with the correct information and put them in the order you read about them. The first one has been done for you.

- A ☐ Ames and the housekeeper
- B ☐ The candle was not lit but
- C ☐ Ames heard the bell
- D ☐ The housekeeper stayed
- E ☒ 1 Ames had not heard the shot because he was in the kitchen...
- F ☐ It was very dark so
- G ☐ They saw Mrs Douglas coming
- H ☐ Mr Barker ran out of the

2 Correct the mistakes

Read these sentences from Cecil Barker's account. They contain some incorrect information. Rewrite them with the correct facts from Chapter Three.

- 1 I met Douglas in California, where we worked in the fields.
- 2 Douglas left California with his wife to go to England.
- 3 I thought that John had murdered someone in a secret society.
- 4 His second wife died a year before I met him.
- 5 He liked to be near other people in case there was danger.
- 6 I have never seen John Douglas act jealously.

3 Questions and answers

Imagine you are Mrs Douglas. Match the questions (1-6) to the correct answers (A-F) on the next page.

- 1 ☐ Where did you meet your husband?
- 2 ☐ How long have you been married?
- 3 ☐ Did your husband ever behave strangely?
- 4 ☐ Where did your husband use to live?
- 5 ☐ Did he mention anyone from his past?
- 6 ☐ Do you know why the murderer took his wedding ring?

- A Once he spoke about Master McGinty.
- B He talked about a place called the Valley of Fear.
- C For five years.
- D In England.
- E No, I have no idea.
- F He looked at strangers suspiciously.

4 Speaking

With a partner, practise asking and answering the questions in exercise 3. Give a tone to your dialogue to reflect how Mrs Douglas is feeling (for example: is she shy, aggressive, calm, defensive, etc?). Now perform the dialogue for the rest of the class and see if they can guess how Mrs Douglas is feeling.

5 Writing

Mrs Douglas said that 'there was definitely a connection' between the Valley of Fear and Master McGinty. What do you think this connection could be? Use the investigator's notes below and your own imagination to write a possible reason for their connection (50-80 words).

Notes

Find out about life in the valley: work? relatives?

Relationship to Master McGinty: friend, employer?

Possible argument? What reason?

'Barker had met Douglas, who was a widower at the time, in California.'

We use relative clauses to give extra information about something without starting a separate sentence. A relative clause often begins with the words **who**, **what**, **where**, **when**, **which** or **that**. We can use these instead of repeating certain words. Sometimes the information in this clause is interesting but not essential to our understanding. This is called a **non-defining** relative clause.

Examples:

My sister plays the violin. She goes to the same school as me.

→ *My sister, **who** goes to the same school as me, plays the violin.*

The new James Bond film was a bit disappointing. I saw it yesterday.

→ *The new James Bond film, **which** I saw yesterday, was a bit disappointing.*

6 Non-defining relative clauses

Read these sentences. Rewrite them as one sentence using the word given in brackets.

- Dr Watson often helped Holmes with his detective work. Dr Watson also lived in Baker Street. (*who*)
- The Valley of Fear* was one of Conan Doyle's later works. It was published in 1914. (*which*)
- Conan Doyle was a very active and creative man. He was born in Edinburgh. (*who*)
- The village of Birlstone is a fictional place in Sussex, England. This story is set there. (*where*)
- Scotland Yard is the name of the main office of the London police force. It was founded in 1829. (*which*)
- The Sherlock Holmes Museum is popular with tourists. It is in Baker Street. (*which*)

7 Murder mystery

A murder has been committed! Work in pairs and look at the lists 1-3.

- Choose a person.



A ☐

Cecil Barker



B ☐

Ames, the butler



C ☐

Mrs Allen,
the housekeeper



D ☐

Mrs Douglas

2 Choose a place.

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|----------|-----------|
| A living room | C dining room | E study | G kitchen |
| B cellar | D attic | F garden | H bedroom |

3 Choose the object used for the murder.

- | | | | |
|----------|---------------|----------|-------|
| A knife | C rope | E vase | G gun |
| B poison | D candlestick | F pillow | |

Student A selects a murderer (1), the place of the murder (2), and a murder weapon (3). He/she must not show the choices to anyone.

Student B must ask questions in order to find out which person, place and object Student A has chosen.

Example: *Does the murderer have blond hair?* or *Was the victim murdered outside?* or *Is the murder weapon normally used to hold flowers?*

RULES

- Student B must not ask direct questions using the name of the person, place or object.
Example: *Did the murderer use the rope?*
or *Is Mrs Smith the murderer?*
- Student A can only answer YES or NO.
- When Student B thinks he/she knows all three answers, he/she must write a sentence summarising the crime on a piece of paper.
Example: *Mr Brown murdered the victim with a gun in the study.*
If the sentence is correct, it is Student B's turn.

Before you read

1 Reading pictures

Look at the picture on page 45 and answer the questions.

- Who can you see in the picture?
- Where are they?
- What is the woman doing? How do you think she is feeling?
- What do you think they are saying?



CHAPTER FOUR

The Missing Dumbbell

Holmes called the butler in.

'Can you remember, Ames, what Mr Barker was wearing on his feet when you joined him in the study?'

'Yes, Mr Holmes. He had a pair of bedroom slippers¹ on. I brought him his boots when he went for the police.'

'Where are the slippers now?'

'They are still under a chair in the hall.'

'Good. It's important to know which footprints belong to Mr Barker and which come from outside.'

'Yes, sir. I noticed that the slippers were marked with blood, sir. So were mine.'

'Thank you, Ames.'

We returned to the study. Holmes brought the slippers with him from the hall. The slippers were dark with blood.

1. **slippers** : soft shoes worn only in the house.



THE VALLEY OF FEAR

PART ONE

'Strange!' said Holmes. He was examining the slippers by the light of the window. 'Very strange indeed!'

He placed the slipper on the blood stain under the window. It matched exactly. Holmes looked at the others.

MacDonald looked excited. 'Barker made the mark under the window himself! What's going on Holmes? What does it mean?'

'That's the question,' said Holmes. 'What does it mean?'

The three detectives had many small details to investigate. I decided to return to the village on my own. I walked through the garden of the house. At the far end was a hedge of yew trees. Behind these was a stone seat, hidden from view. As I approached, I heard some voices coming from the area of the stone seat. I came around the trees and saw Mrs Douglas and Mr Barker. They did not see me straight away. I was shocked by Mrs Douglas's appearance. Before, she had been very quiet. Now her eyes were shining and she was laughing at something Barker had just said. Barker was also smiling. Just too late they both saw me and assumed more serious expressions. They spoke briefly to each other, then Barker got up and walked towards me.

'Excuse me sir, but are you Doctor Watson? Mrs Douglas wants to ask you something.'

I did not really want to talk to her. I saw clearly in my mind the body of the dead man lying on the floor. Here, only a few hours after the tragedy, was his wife laughing with another man. But I went over to them.

'You're a good friend of Mr Holmes. Tell me,' she asked, 'if I told him something, does he have to tell the detectives? Is he working on his own or is he with them?'





'Mr Holmes is independent,' I replied, 'but he won't hide anything from the detectives. You must ask Holmes himself.'

I left them and continued walking.

When I told Holmes what had happened, he said that he did not want to hear anything from them.

'It can get complicated if we have to make an arrest for murder,' he said.

'Why, have you solved it, Holmes?'

'Oh, not yet, but when we find the missing dumbbell—'

'The dumbbell?'

'Watson, you must realise how important that missing dumbbell is! What use is one dumbbell?' He continued talking.

'A lie, Watson — that's what we have here. A great big lie. Barker's story is a lie and Mrs Douglas is helping him. They are both lying. So why are they lying and what is the truth that they are trying to hide?'

'How can you be so sure they're lying?' I asked.

'Because it simply can't be true! According to their story, the murderer had less than a minute after the murder to take the wedding ring, which was under another ring, then to replace the other ring and put the card by the victim. This is impossible. I don't think that the ring was taken before the victim was killed. The candle was lit for only a short time. I think the murderer was alone with the dead man for some time with the lamp lit. But the gunshot was the cause of death: therefore the gun was fired much earlier than we have been told. So the two people who heard the gunshot, Mr Barker and Mrs Douglas, are obviously both lying for some reason. And now we can also show that Barker put the footprint under the window. It doesn't look good for Barker.'

'So what time did the murder actually occur? The housekeeper said she heard a noise at about quarter to eleven, about half an hour before Barker called them. I think that this was the gunshot and the real time of the murder. If I'm correct, what were Mr Barker and Mrs Douglas doing, if they aren't the actual murderers, from a quarter to eleven when they heard the shot, to a quarter past eleven when they rang the bell for the servants?'

'I'm sure there is something going on between those two,' I agreed. 'Do you think that they are guilty of the murder?' I asked.

'I think that Mr Barker and Mrs Douglas know the truth about this murder. I'm not sure that they are the murderers themselves. I think that an evening alone in the study will help a lot. Can I borrow your umbrella please, Watson?'

I was confused, but I gave him my umbrella anyway.

Later that evening, Inspector MacDonald and Mr Mason returned. They had found out more about the owner of the bicycle: he was an American who was staying at a hotel in the nearby town of Tunbridge Wells. According to the people at the hotel he was a tall, handsome man of about fifty. He was dressed in a grey suit and a short yellow coat and cap.

'He sounds very similar to Mr Douglas,' remarked Holmes.

Holmes told the detectives about his theories and what he intended to do that evening. The detectives asked if they could help.

'No, no,' said Holmes. 'All I need is darkness and Watson's umbrella.'

The text and **beyond****FCE 1 Comprehension check**

For questions 1-5, choose the correct answer — A, B, C or D.

- Why did Holmes ask the butler what Mr Barker was wearing on his feet?
 - ☐ He needed to decide which footprints came from outside.
 - ☐ Mr Barker left a lot of footprints in the room.
 - ☐ The footprints were made by someone wearing slippers.
 - ☐ He wanted to understand why Mr Barker was wearing boots.
- What was different about Mrs Douglas when Watson saw her later?
 - ☐ She was very quiet.
 - ☐ She had a very serious expression.
 - ☐ She appeared to be happy.
 - ☐ She was talking a lot.
- Why didn't Holmes believe Mrs Douglas and Mr Barker's story?
 - ☐ The candle was only lit for a short time.
 - ☐ The gun was probably fired by one of them.
 - ☐ The card was put there by another person.
 - ☐ It was impossible for the murderer to do everything in one minute.
- When, according to Holmes, did the murder occur?
 - ☐ at quarter past eleven
 - ☐ at quarter to eleven
 - ☐ between eleven o'clock and quarter past eleven
 - ☐ between quarter to and quarter past eleven
- Who was the owner of the bicycle?
 - ☐ a man from Tunbridge Wells
 - ☐ a good-looking American man
 - ☐ a friend of Mr Douglas
 - ☐ a tourist staying in a small hotel

FCE 2 Sentence transformation

For questions 1-7 complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. You must use between two and five words, including the word given.

- Mr Holmes called the butler in.
asked
Mr Holmes in.
- He had a pair of bedroom slippers on.
wearing
He bedroom slippers.
- I left them and continued walking.
carried
I left them and
- 'Have you solved it, Holmes?' asked Watson.
if
Watson asked..... it.
- They are both lying.
telling
Neither of
- 'Can I borrow your umbrella please, Watson?'
me
'Watson, canumbrella, please?'
- 'You must ask Holmes himself,' Watson told him.
had
Watson said that Holmes himself.

3 Adjectives – moods

Look at the adjectives below. Underline the ones you can use to describe someone who is feeling uncomfortable and circle the adjectives you would use to describe someone who is feeling relaxed.

confused friendly agitated shy nervous calm
arrogant alarmed cheerful charming scared patient
happy quiet angry shocked worried

4 Mr Barker and Mrs Douglas

A Complete the table with adjectives that describe the reactions of Mr Barker and Mrs Douglas when they

- 1 found out about the murder.
- 2 were interviewed by the police.
- 3 were on the stone seat in the garden.

Mr Barker	Mrs Douglas
1 calm	1 scared but quiet
2	2
3	3

B Answer the questions.

- 1 What does Dr Watson think about Mrs Douglas and Mr Barker?
- 2 Do you think they know something about the murder?

5 Game – truth or lies?

Write four sentences about things you have done in your life, or four things you did last month. One of the sentences must be a lie. Then tell them to another student and ask him/her to decide which one is not true.

6 Vocabulary – clothes

A Do you know the words for these types of footwear? Match the words (A-F) to a picture (1-6). Which one made the mark in the study?

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------------|------------|
| A slippers | C boots | E trainers |
| B flip-flops | D high-heeled shoes | F clogs |



B Describe what the owner of the bicycle was wearing. What would a cyclist wear today?

FCE 7 Speaking

A The photographs below show people wearing clothing for different occasions. Compare and contrast the two photographs. What do you think the two people are dressed for?



B Describe the different clothes and footwear you wear for leisure and work.

Before you read

1 Reading pictures

Look at the picture on page 55 and discuss the questions.

- 1 Who do you think the people in the picture are? Describe where they are.
- 2 What time of day is it?
- 3 What do you think the people in the picture are doing? Make a list of possible reasons for their actions.
- 4 What do you think happens immediately after this scene?

2 Listening

Listen to the first part of Chapter Five and say whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

- | | T | F |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 The detectives are unable to find the owner of the bicycle. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 The house was used to hide important people. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Holmes tells the detectives to investigate the house. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 The detectives refuse to do as Holmes asked. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Holmes decides to write a letter to Porlock. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 They all wait for a long time before anything happens. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 They see a tall man swimming in the moat. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 The man they are watching is in the study. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



CHAPTER FIVE

The Mystery is Solved

- 0 The next morning, the detectives were trying to find the owner of the bicycle.

'Any luck?' asked Holmes.

'Well, so far, we have reports of a man in a yellow coat in Leicester, Nottingham, Southampton and Liverpool. The country seems to be full of people in yellow coats,' replied MacDonald. 'What about you? Did you find out anything last night?'

'I can't really tell you at the moment. However, I have found out that Charles I was once hidden in this house for several days during the Civil War,'¹ said Holmes.

'I don't see what that has to do with this case,' said Mason.

- 1 'Well, I want to give you both some advice. I can't tell you everything that I know yet, but my advice to you is to abandon the case for today. Meet me here this evening and things will become clear.'

1. Charles I...Civil War : King Charles I was king during a war between different factions in Britain (see dossier on page 63).

The detectives were not very happy about this but eventually agreed.

'One more thing, I want you to write a letter to Mr Barker. Write this down. "Dear Sir, we have decided to drain¹ the moat in the hope that we may find some—"'

MacDonald interrupted. 'It's impossible. We've already made inquiries.'

"—in the hope that we may find something which will help in the case. I have made arrangements and the workmen will begin tomorrow morning." Now sign that and deliver it this afternoon. Then meet me here when it gets dark.'

The detectives were obviously annoyed but agreed to do as Holmes asked.

Later that evening, Holmes took us outside into the grounds of the Manor House. We stopped opposite the windows of the study.

'Now what?' asked MacDonald.

'We must wait,' said Holmes. 'We need to be patient.'

2 We waited and waited.

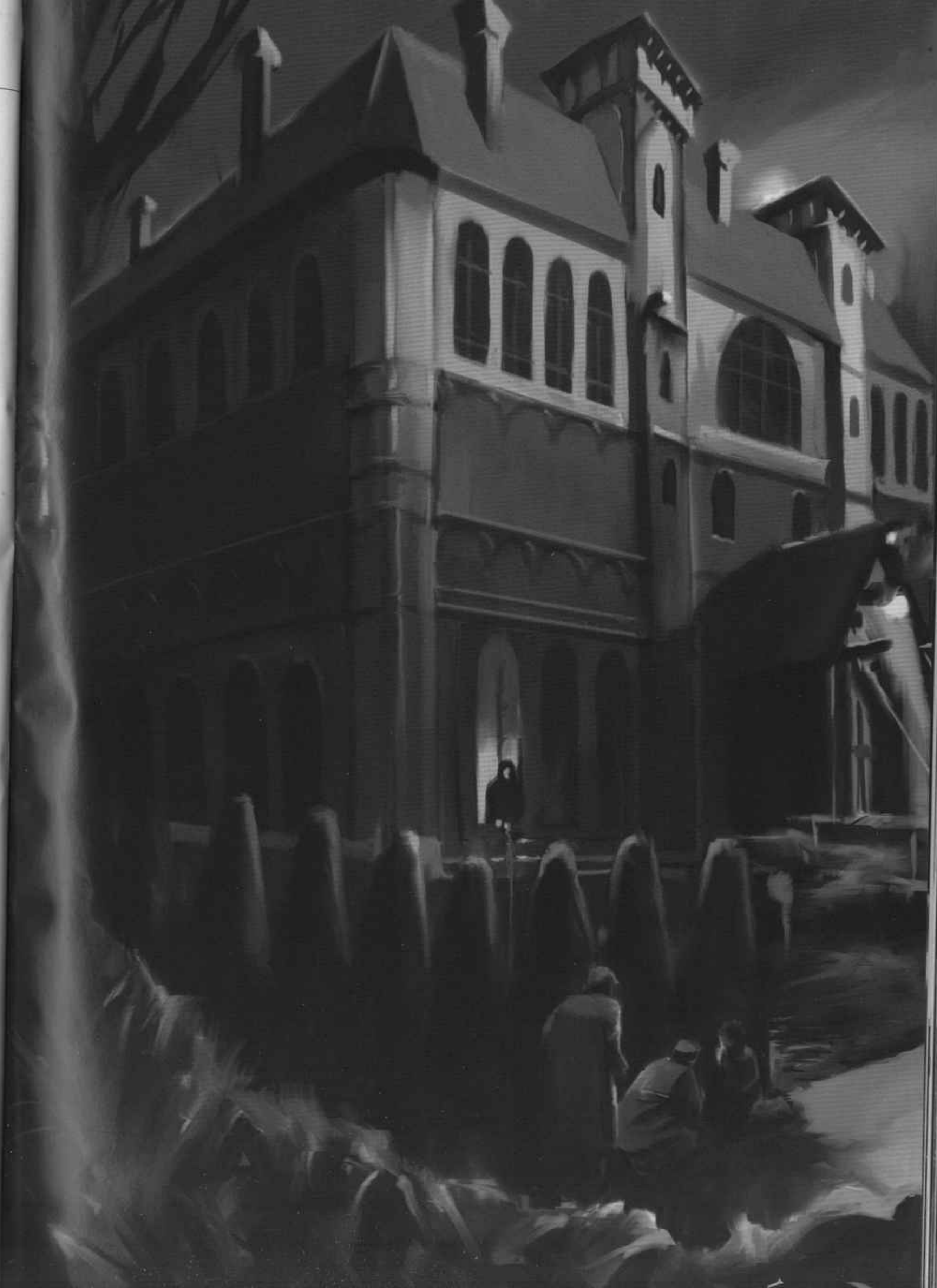
'What exactly are we waiting for?' asked MacDonald finally. 'And how much longer do we have to wait?'

'I don't know how long we'll have to wait but I *can* tell you *what* we are waiting for. Look — that's what we're waiting for!'

As he spoke, we saw a man open the window of the study. We heard the splashing of water as the man searched for something. Then suddenly we saw him raise a large round object from the moat and take it into the study.

END

1. **drain** : to empty of water.



'Now!' shouted Holmes. 'Now!'

We all jumped to our feet and ran into the house and into the study: there was Cecil Barker.

'What do you want?' he said.

'That's what we want,' said Holmes. 'That package, weighted with the dumbbell that you have just pulled from the moat.'

'How do you know about it?'

'Well, I put it there,' said Holmes, 'or, rather, I "replaced" it there after hooking it out last night with the handle of Watson's umbrella.'

He opened the package. Inside was a pair of boots, a grey suit, a yellow coat and a dangerous-looking knife.

'The label in the coat is from Vermissa, USA. Earlier today, I found out that Vermissa is a mining valley. Perhaps the V.V. on the card might stand for Vermissa Valley and may even be the Valley of Fear, I think. This seems clear. Perhaps you could explain further, Mr Barker?' asked Holmes.

3 Barker did not know what to say. Eventually he said, 'Well, if you know such a lot, Holmes, why don't you tell us?'

Mrs Douglas came in. She had heard everything. 'You have done enough for us, Cecil. Whatever happens in the future, you have done enough.'

'More than enough,' said Holmes. 'Now I think it is time to hear the truth from Mr Douglas himself.'

We were all astonished¹ at Holmes's words. As he spoke, a man seemed to have come out from the wall in a dark corner of the room. Mrs Douglas turned and put her arms around her husband.

'I'm sure it's best this way, John,' she said.

1. **astonished** : amazed, shocked.



4 The man looked at us. He came to me and gave me a package. 'I've heard of you,' he said. 'Well, Doctor Watson, you've never heard a story like this one. Tell it your own way, but these are the facts. I've been hiding in there for two days and I've written it all down. This is the story of the Valley of Fear.'

MacDonald was staring at John Douglas in amazement.

'Well, if you're John Douglas, whose murder have we been investigating for the past two days? And where did you just come from?'

'Don't you remember me telling you that Charles I was once hidden in this house?' Holmes reminded him. 'When I found the clothes in the moat, it became clear that the body was not that of John Douglas, but must be the body of the cyclist from Tunbridge Wells. So, then I had to find out where Mr Douglas was hiding.'

5 'He's right. I won't start at the beginning,' said John Douglas, 'but there are some men who won't leave me alone until I'm dead. They forced me out of America. I wanted to spend my last years here in peace. I never told my wife how things were because I didn't want to worry her.'

'I was in Tunbridge Wells the day before these events, and I saw a man in the street who I recognised immediately. He was my worst enemy, so I knew that there was trouble coming. I came home and prepared myself. All day I was nervous but when the drawbridge was up I felt safe. Then, when I was checking the lights before going to bed, I saw his boot under the curtain. I put down the candle and he jumped out at me and got the gun from under his coat. We were fighting and I was trying to take the gun out of his hands before he could fire.'

6 'Maybe it was me that pulled the trigger¹ or maybe it just went off in the fight. Anyway, he took the shot full in the face. I was looking at all that was left of Ted Baldwin. I was in shock when I heard Barker and my wife coming. I ran to the door and stopped her. We thought that the servants would be there any minute. But they didn't come. They hadn't heard anything. That was when I thought of the plan.'

'The man has the same mark as I have, the mark of the lodge.² He was also about the same height and size as me. His face was unrecognisable. We tied his clothes to the dumbbell and threw them out of the window. Then we put my clothes on him. The card that was meant for my body was lying by his and we put my ring on his finger. I didn't want to part with my wedding ring, but as you can see, I can't get it off anyway. I put a plaster on his chin where I have one myself at the moment.'

7 'I thought that if I could hide for a while, we might, at last, have a chance to live the rest of our lives in peace. So, I hid in the hiding place and Barker did what he had to do. He made the mark by the window and then, when everything was fixed, he rang the bell for the servants. That's the truth.'

Holmes looked serious. 'I don't think this story is over yet, Mr Douglas. I see trouble ahead.'

And now, let us go back twenty years in time and travel thousands of miles to the west, so that I can tell you the beginning of this terrible story of John Douglas. And then, we will meet in the rooms of Baker Street once more to hear how it ends.

1. **trigger** : the small lever you pull to fire a gun.

2. **the lodge** : the name given to the local group of the secret society, the Freemasons.

The text and **beyond****FCE 1 Comprehension check**

Chapter Five has been divided into eight parts. Choose from the list A-I the sentence which best summarises each part. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (0).

- A ☐ Ted Baldwin becomes Mr Douglas.
 B ☐ Mr Douglas is alive and well.
 C ☐ Dr Watson receives the details of an incredible story.
 D ☐ No one can find the missing dumbbell.
 E ☐ The package appears, together with Mr Barker.
 F ☐ Mr Douglas's plans for living in peace will not last long.
 G ☐ The detectives are unhappy but they follow Holmes's orders.
 H ☒ There are too many men in yellow coats.
 I ☐ The missing cyclist and a terrible enemy.

2 Plot

Look at your answers for exercise 3, Chapter Two. Which of those questions do you know the answer to now?

3 Which of these things is different with the new development in the story?

A the place of the murder B the time of the murder C the victim

4 Police report

Complete the police report below with the information we already knew and the new information we have from Chapter Five.

Birlstone Constabulary Murder Report

Name of victim: (1)

Identifying marks: (2) the victim had a

Time of death: (3)

Reported from: (4) Birlstone Manor House, by

Cause of death: (5) The victim was in the with a

Name(s) of suspect: (6)

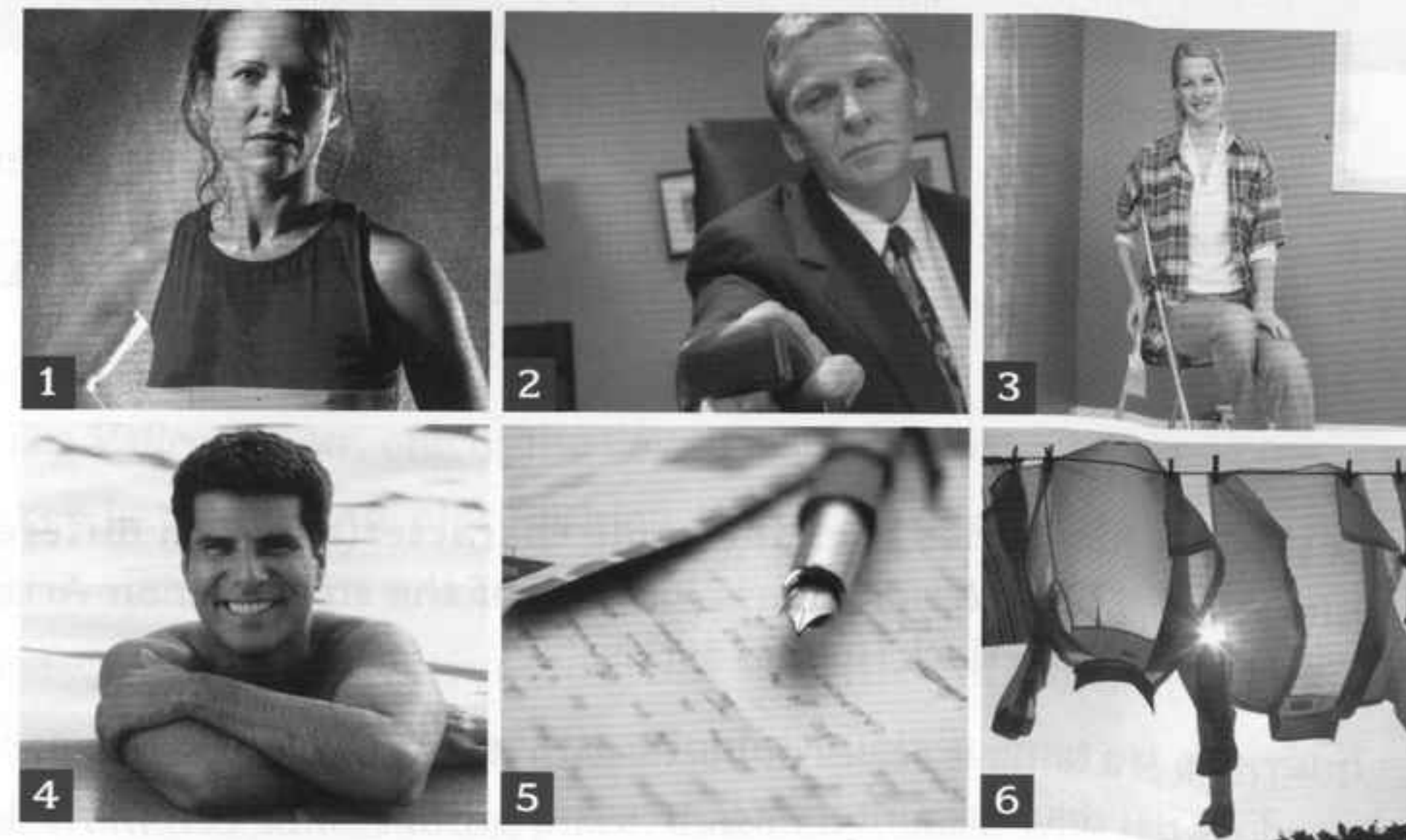
'Whose murder have we been investigating?'

We use the present perfect continuous when:

- the action started in the past and still continues in the present, and we want to say how long the action has been continuing.
*I **have been learning** English for five years.*
- the action has just been completed, and we want to talk about its effect on the present.
*I **must change** my clothes. I've **been running**.*

5 The present perfect continuous

Look at these pictures. Can you guess what these people have been doing or what has been happening? Write a sentence in the present perfect continuous for each one.

**FCE 6 The Strand magazine and serialisation**

Read the text below and decide which answer — A, B, C or D — best fits each space. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Many of the Sherlock Holmes stories (0) B in *The Strand* as serials. A serial is a story that is told in separate parts. A new part of a Sherlock Holmes story was printed in *The Strand* every month, in the same way that many stories are serialised on television today.

(1) it didn't just contain serials, *The Strand* magazine was one of the most (2) serial magazines of its time. Some of the best-known authors of the late 19th and early 20th century wrote stories and

- (3) for *The Strand*. Queen Victoria even allowed the magazine to
(4) one of her drawings.

The magazine was started by George Newnes in 1890. It was aimed at families and people (5) Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was one of *The Strand*'s most popular writers. The readers loved his character, Sherlock Holmes, and (6) *The Strand* was selling more and more copies. An (7) 30,000 copies were sold with the serialisation of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. *The Strand* continued its tradition of excellent detective stories and published many other serials (8) famous crime writers such as Agatha Christie. Its last publication was in 1950.

- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|------------|---------------|
| 0 A showed | (B) appeared | C begun | D were |
| 1 A although | B however | C despite | D even |
| 2 A popular | B known | C best | D entertained |
| 3 A books | B poem | C articles | D essay |
| 4 A showed | B print | C paint | D stamped |
| 5 A somewhere | B everything | C anything | D everywhere |
| 6 A then | B next | C soon | D now |
| 7 A great | B more | C addition | D extra |
| 8 A on | B with | C to | D by |

7 Discussion

A book or film series uses the same character(s) but in different situations. *The Valley of Fear* is just one of the stories in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes series.

- 1 Think of a famous series of books with the same character. Why does this character interest you?
- 2 Think about a television series you like. How did the last episode end? What do you still need to find out? What was exciting about it?

8 Writing

Work with a partner to create a situation for a new detective series on television. Think about who your detective will be: his/her age, personality, family, hobbies, clothes and any particular skill he/she may have. Include details on where the series is set and what type of crimes are investigated. Also think about the other characters in the series and how they all interact together.



Groombridge Manor, the model for the house in *The Valley of Fear*.

Hiding Places

In *The Valley of Fear*, one of the key discoveries that Sherlock Holmes makes is the hiding place which King Charles I once used. This discovery helps him to solve the mystery of Birlstone Manor. At first, the two other detectives do not see the importance of this information. It is only later, when John Douglas comes out alive and well from this same hiding place, that they realise why Holmes was so interested in this.

Conan Doyle once said that the house in *The Valley of Fear*, Birlstone Manor, is based on Groombridge Manor, a real manor house four miles from Tunbridge Wells, in Kent, south east England. Hiding places in houses like these have played an important role in history. In the Middle Ages when there were feuds¹ going on most of the time,

1. feuds : arguments, often violent, that last for a very long time.

no man felt safe, even in his own home. So, many castles and mansions belonging to the rich and powerful had some sort of security in case of a surprise attack: there was a secret hiding place or an escape route that could be used whenever needed. These were used to hide kings and queens and other important people in times of trouble. However, the majority of secret rooms and hiding places in old buildings were used by people needing to hide because of their religion. During the 16th century the Protestant Church of England became independent from the Catholic Church of Rome and this caused political problems. During the reign¹ of Queen Elizabeth I (1533-1603), also known as the 'Protestant Queen', many laws were passed that made life difficult for people who were Roman Catholics. For example, a law was passed which stopped Roman Catholics from celebrating their religion, even in their own homes. The first time they were caught, the person had to renounce² his or her religion. If caught a second time, they had to spend a year in prison, and if caught a third time, they were sent to prison for life. If anyone from the Roman Catholic Church converted someone from the Church of England to their faith, then both people faced the death penalty. Since they were often used by people who had to hide because of their religion, these hiding places became known as 'priest's holes'. During the reign of Elizabeth I, many of the priest's holes were built by a man called Nicholas Owen. He was very good at disguising³ the entrances to these hiding places and making them look like part of the rest of the building. This is why it is such a surprise for Watson and the other

1. **reign** : the length of time that a king or queen rules for.
2. **renounce** : to officially say you do not want to be involved in something any more.
3. **disguising** : changing something's appearance by making it look like something else.



Queen Elizabeth I.

to Birlstone Manor. These included Moseley Old Hall in Staffordshire (western central England) and Heale in Wiltshire (south-west England).

Other more recent hiding places include Anne Frank's secret annex of rooms, which we can read about in her diary, and the attic in which Wladyslaw Szpilman hid, also during the Second World War.

1. **executed** : killed by the state as punishment for something illegal.

detectives when John Douglas appears in the room, as if from nowhere. Many of these hiding places have only been discovered during the last century.

In *The Valley of Fear* it is King Charles I who hid in Birlstone Manor. During his reign (1625-1649) there was civil war in England, as well as religious conflict. Charles I made the situation worse by marrying a Roman Catholic. For these reasons, he went into hiding. Charles I was not a very good ruler, and eventually he was accused of betraying his country and was executed.¹

However, Charles II, the son of Charles I, managed to escape, largely because he was able to hide in some houses very similar

(The story of Szpilman's life has recently been documented in the film *The Pianist*.) Both were Jewish and hid to escape the horrific injustice of the Holocaust and anti-Semitism in parts of Europe at this time.

1 Comprehension check

Answer the following questions.

- 1 Who was hiding in a secret place in *The Valley of Fear*?
- 2 Why was this important to the investigation and the discovery of the real victim?
- 3 In the past, what sort of people often used hiding places?
- 4 What was the main reason for secret rooms and hiding places in old buildings in England?
- 5 What was the name of the places where Catholics hid?
- 6 Why did Charles I go into hiding?
- 7 What is interesting about the houses Charles II hid in?
- 8 Which recent film shows Jewish people using a hiding place?

2 Listening

Listen to the tour guide on a visit to the gardens of Groombridge Manor House, the original Birlstone Manor. Complete the sentences below.

- 1 Groombridge Manor was built
- 2 They can't visit the house itself because
- 3 The house was also the setting for
- 4 Today they are going to
- 5 Behind the gardens
- 6 There is even a

3 Speaking

Can you think of any secret hiding places in your country, or even in your town? Who used them? When and why? Prepare a short presentation for a visitor from abroad.

Part Two

THE SCOWRERS¹

1. **Scowrers** : the name of the members of the Vermissa Lodge. A 'lodge' is the local group of a society such as the freemasons.



The Characters



From left to right: Jack McMurdo, Ettie Shafter, Mike Scanlan, Ted Baldwin, Master McGinty

Before you read

1 Places in the story

Part Two of the story is set in the USA. Places 1-5 all appear in the story, but one of these places is fictional. Decide which place is not real and match the others to their correct description (A-D).

- | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> New York City | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Philadelphia | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Chicago |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Vermissa Valley | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> California | |

- A A large city in the north of the USA, situated between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi river.
- B A large state in the west. Its biggest cities are by the Pacific Ocean. It has mountains and big agricultural areas too.
- C A big manufacturing and financial centre in the north east. It was known for the famous railway, the Pennsylvania Railroad.
- D The most populous city in the USA and home to many different nationalities and cultures. The centre is an island called Manhattan.

2 Eckley Miners' Village

It is thought that the 'valley of fear' in Conan Doyle's novel is based on a real place in the USA. Complete the text with the following words.

industry society film museum coal mining farmers skills

In 1853, four men came to an area called Shingletown. They found (1) there and Eckley's history as a (2) village began. The first people to come to Eckley were coal miners from England and Wales. In the 1860s the coal mine (3) grew and many more workers arrived from Ireland. They were often given the worst jobs because they were (4) and not miners. Eventually they learnt new (5) and got better jobs as new immigrants arrived. Today you can visit a mining (6) in Eckley, but people also come to the town because of its connection with a secret (7) of miners called the Molly Maguires. A (8) called *The Molly Maguires* was made in Eckley in 1969. It is believed Sir Arthur Conan Doyle used the area to be his 'valley of fear'.



Vermissa

It was 4th February, 1875. It was evening and the train was travelling to Vermissa, U.S.A., the small town at the top of the valley. The train was full of miners,¹ who had been working all day. In the first carriage there were also two policemen and one other young man sitting alone.

He was about thirty years old, with brown hair and grey eyes. He stared out of the window into the darkness. At one point, he took a large gun from his pocket. It was loaded.² He checked it quickly then replaced it, but a miner sitting near him had noticed it.

'Oh!' he said. 'You seem ready for action.'

The young man smiled. 'Yes,' he said, 'we need them sometimes where I come from.'

1. **miners** : people who work underground in a mine in order to obtain materials such as coal, diamonds or gold.

2. **loaded** : (here) ready to fire.

'And where's that?' asked the miner.
'Chicago,' answered the young man.
'You might find that you need it here too.'
'Is that right?' asked the young man, surprised. 'I'm looking for work here.'

'Do you have friends here?'

'No, but I can make them,' answered the young man. 'I belong to the Ancient Order of Freeman.¹ There's no town without a lodge so I'll find my friends there.'

The other man's manner changed. He got up, came over to sit next to the young man and held out his hand. The two men shook hands in a special way.

'I see you're telling the truth,' said the miner. Then he raised his right hand to his right eyebrow. The young traveller raised his left hand to his left eyebrow.

'Dark nights are unpleasant,' said the miner.

'Yes, for strangers to travel,' answered the young man.

'That's good enough for me. I'm Brother Scanlan, Lodge 341, Vermissa Valley. Welcome.'

'Thank you. I'm Brother Jack McMurdo, Lodge 29, Chicago, Master, J. H. Scott. I'm lucky to meet a brother so early.'

'But why did you leave Chicago?' asked the miner.

McMurdo nodded towards the policemen.

'They'd be very interested to know,' he said. 'But I don't really want to talk about it. I've my own good reason for leaving Chicago.'

'Okay. Where are you going tonight?'

'To Vermissa.'

1. **Ancient order of Freeman** : another name for the Freemasons, a secret fraternal society (see dossier on page 79).

'That's the third stop. Where are you staying?'

'With Jacob Shafter, Sheridan Street.'

'Well, I'm getting off at the next stop. But I'll give you some advice. If you're in trouble in Vermissa, go and see Master McGinty. Maybe we'll meet at the lodge one evening.' The train stopped and the miner got off.

The train moved off.

'You're new around here then?' one of the policemen asked McMurdo.

'What if I am?' he answered rudely.

'Just be careful who you choose to be your friends. I wouldn't start with Mike Scanlan and his gang if I were you.'

'What business is it of yours who my friends are?' shouted McMurdo. Everyone looked round at him. 'Did I ask for your advice?'

The two policemen were shocked.

'No offence, stranger. It was a warning, seeing that you're new here.'

'I'm new here but I'm not new to you and your kind,' shouted McMurdo. 'You're all the same, giving your advice when nobody asks for it!'

'Well. We'll probably be seeing more of you by the sound of it,' said one of the policemen. 'You're a troublemaker if ever I saw one!'

'I'm not afraid of you!' cried McMurdo. 'My name's Jack McMurdo and if you want me, I'm staying at Jacob Shafter's at Sheridan Street, Vermissa, so I'm not hiding from you, am I?'

A few minutes later the train stopped at Vermissa station and McMurdo and many of the other workers got off the train. McMurdo was about to walk off when one of the miners stopped him.

'You really know how to talk to the police,' he said admiringly.

'I'm passing by Shafter's place. Let me carry your bag and I'll show you where it is.'



THE VALLEY OF FEAR

PART TWO

Many of the other miners said goodnight as they left. Before he had even arrived in the town, Jack McMurdo had a reputation in Vermissa.

The two men walked along.

'That's the Union House,' said the miner pointing to one of the bigger buildings. 'Jack McGinty is the boss there.'

'What's he like?'

'Haven't you heard of him? He's been in the papers often enough because of the Scowrers.'

'The Scowrers? Aren't they a group of murderers?' asked McMurdo.

'Sssh!' cried the miner. 'You won't last long here if you talk like that, on the street so that anyone can hear you. There are murders but McGinty's name mustn't be connected with them. He hears everything. Now, here's Jacob Shafter's house.'

'Thanks,' said McMurdo. He knocked on the door.

It was opened by a beautiful young woman. She was blonde with dark eyes. McMurdo stared at her, lost for words.

She spoke first. 'I thought it was Father,' she said. 'Are you looking for him? He'll be back soon.'

'I'm in no hurry,' said McMurdo at last. 'But I'm looking for a place to stay and your house was recommended to me.'

'Well then come in, sir. I'm Ettie Shafter, Mr Shafter's daughter. My mother's dead, so I run the house. You can wait by the fire for my father. Ah, here he is now.'

An old man walked slowly up the path. The two men talked and Jack McMurdo agreed to pay seven dollars a week to stay with them.

McMurdo quickly became popular at the Shafter's house. Within a few days everyone knew who he was and they liked and respected him. He had also fallen in love with Shafter's daughter Ettie and told her so everyday. He was determined to marry her even though she told him that she had already promised to marry someone else.



The text and **beyond**

1 Comprehension check

Look at the picture on page 73 and answer the following questions about Chapter One of Part Two.

- 1 Where is Jack McMurdo?
- 2 Who does he meet here?
- 3 Who does Jack have an argument with in this picture?

Now look at the picture on page 75 and answer questions 4-6.

- 4 Where is Jack?
- 5 Who is the woman opening the door to Jack?
- 6 How does Jack's relationship to her change?

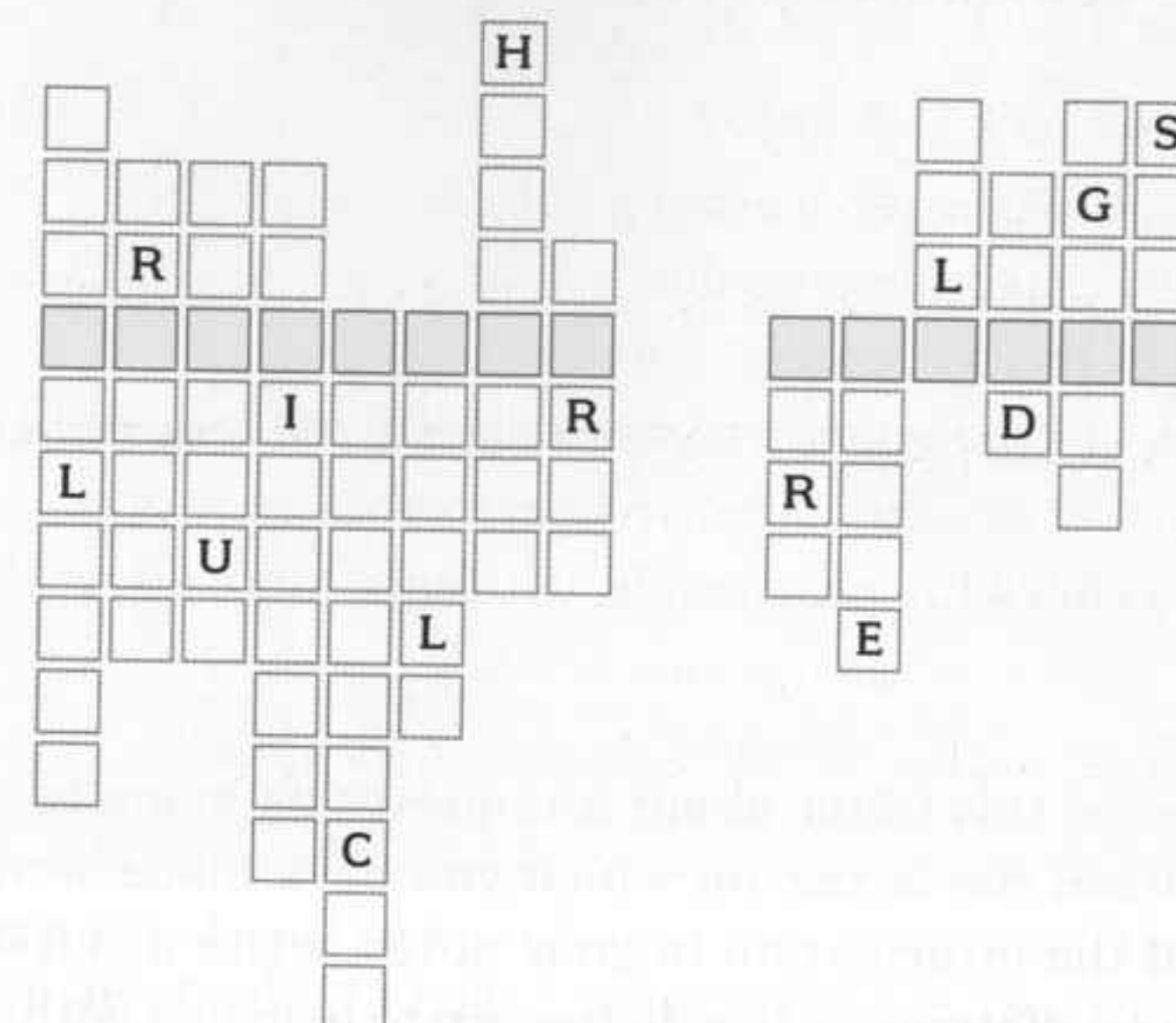
2 Summary

Read the summary of Chapter One and choose the best words.

One evening a (1) *handsome/beautiful* young man of about 30, called Jack McMurdo, was (2) *journeying/travelling* on a train with two policemen and a group of miners. One of the miners asked him some questions and McMurdo (3) *told/said* him that he was a member of the Ancient Order of Freemasons. The two men (4) *greeted/waved* each other in a way that both of them understood. The miner (5) *introduced/presented* himself as Brother Scanlan. McMurdo said he was going to (6) *remain/stay* at Jacob Shafter's in Sheridan Street. The miner told him he (7) *has to/should* see Master McGinty at the lodge. The police warned him to be (8) *careful/worried* who he made friends with. He started to (9) *argue/fight* with the police. The other miners spoke to him (10) *cautiously/admiringly*. One of them offered to (11) *carry/fetch* his bag. McMurdo asked if the Scowlers were murderers but the miner told him not to talk about the murders. The Shafter's were (12) *much/very* happy to have Jack at their house. He (13) *felt/fell* in love with Ettie, Jacob's daughter, but Ettie explained that she had already (14) *agreed/wanted* to marry someone else.

3 Word puzzle

Complete the puzzle with the correct words from exercise two. The letters in the blue squares will tell you where Jack is going. The words are not in order. Some letters are already there for you.



4 Plot

Why is the second part of the story set in America?

5 Characters

Choose the correct character for each question.

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| A Jack McMurdo | C Ettie Shafter | E John Douglas |
| B Doctor Watson | D Jacob Shafter | F Mike Scanlan |

- 1 Who is telling the story? Who wanted him to tell this story?
- 2 Who are the new characters in the story? Who do you think is going to be the main character in the second part of the story?

6 'I'm staying at Jacob Shafter's at Sheridan Street'

Jack McMurdo is staying with a family. In the past it was common to stay in a boarding house (a rented room in someone's house, often including meals). What type of accommodation do you prefer to stay in on holiday? Would you stay in the same accommodation if you went to a new town to work or study?

10 **7** Listening

FCE

You will hear five people talking about places to stay. Choose which opinion (A-F) each speaker expresses. Use the letters only once. There is one extra letter which you do not need to use.

Speakers: 1 2 3 4 5

Opinions:

- A You get better service in big hotels.
- B Youth hostels are friendly.
- C I prefer to stay in small hotels.
- D Where I stay depends on the length of my trip.
- E It's better to rent your own apartment.
- F If you stay with local people, you learn more about the area.

FCE **8** Writing

You receive this letter about a request you made to stay in a guest house. Read the letter, on which you have made some notes. Then, using all the information in your notes, write a suitable reply (120-180 words). You may use a dictionary to help you with any vocabulary you do not know.

Same price for single
occupancy of twin room?

Do all rooms
have en-suite
bathrooms?

How often?

How much
for deposit?
Preferred
method of
payment?

Thank you for your enquiry.

We still have rooms available for the week you wish to stay. However, we do not have four doubles and a single. We can offer you three doubles and two twin rooms.

With regards to your enquiry about how to get here, we are enclosing a map of how to find the Valley Guest House. Bus X25 leaves the station and passes the guest house.

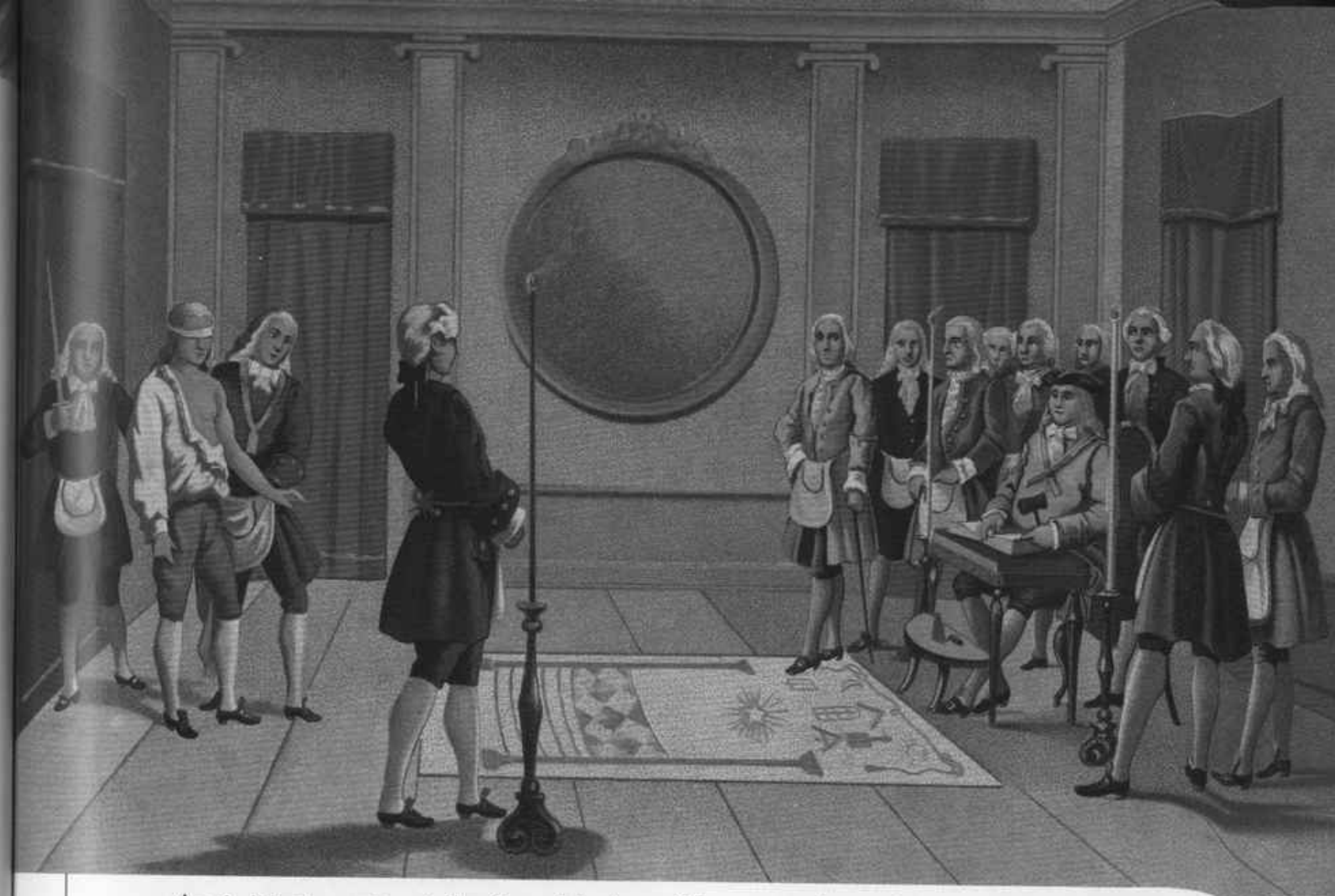
Please send us a deposit with your booking confirmation.

We hope to hear from you soon and hope you will enjoy your stay at the Valley Guest House.

Please let us know if you have any special requirements or if any of your party are vegetarian.

The Management
Valley Guest House

Yes - 2 vegetarians



An initiation rite at the Grand Lodge of France at the end of the 18th century. The initiate (left), who must not see the Freemasons until he has become one himself, must undo his shirt to prove he is not a woman.

Secret Societies

The term 'secret society' is often used to describe organisations that have secret ceremonies and duties. Its members must hide certain activities – for example, the series of tests they must pass in order to join the society. These tests are known as 'initiation rites'. Famous secret societies include Freemasonry, or the Ancient Order of Freeman, as it is called in *The Valley of Fear*. Secret societies range from innocent groups such as college fraternities, to powerful organisations with definite financial or political aims. Freemasonry has often been criticised and suppressed by both the extreme right, in Nazi Germany, and the extreme left, in the former Communist States of Eastern Europe. Secret societies are actually illegal in Poland.

Traditionally, the Freemasons are an organisation based on brotherly love, faith and charity. The members generally hold the same moral beliefs. Freemasons belong to different 'lodges', which are governed by independent 'grand lodges'.

Arthur Conan Doyle was a Freemason himself, but was not a very active member. In 1900, he was made an honorary member of the lodge of Edinburgh because he accepted an invitation to speak at a dinner. However, Doyle does not mention Freemasonry in his autobiography, *Memories and Adventures*, which indicates it did not play an important role in his life. Doyle was interested in all aspects of life, some of which held his interest for longer than others.

Many of the so-called 'secrets' of Freemasonry have been known to the public from as early as the 18th century. The private aspects of Freemasonry today are more to do with rituals and the ways that its members can recognise each other: for example, a particular type of handshake or the use of certain phrases, both of which we see in *The Valley of Fear*.

Some of the rituals and signs of recognition of Freemasonry date back to ancient religions and to the practices of the medieval stonemasons¹ in England. During the 17th century the stonemasons' clubs, or lodges, began to be attended by gentlemen who had no connection with the trade. The Grand Lodge of England was founded in 1717, that of Ireland in 1725, and Scotland in 1736; Freemasonry then spread to the USA, the British colonies and European countries. Freemasons are now mainly from the professional middle classes.

Perhaps due to the secrecy that surrounds it, Freemasonry has often been at the centre of many conspiracy theories; people have accused

1. **stonemasons** : skilled workers who make things with stone.



The interior of the **Freemasons' Temple in London**, which was built in 1912.

Freemasons of being a power for evil and the occult. They are also often associated with groups such as the New World Order and the Illuminati, both of which are thought to be powerful societies planning secretly to rule the world.

It is said that Conan Doyle partly based *The Valley of Fear* on a real secret organisation known as the Molly Maguires. The Mollies, as they were commonly called, were believed to be a group of poor Irish coal miners who terrorised businesses in the state of Pennsylvania, USA in the late 1800s.

Popular novels such as *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown are based around such secret societies; the Illuminati also feature heavily in one of his most recent novels, *Angels and Demons*.

1 Comprehension check

Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Freemasonry involves certain rites. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 College fraternities are often talked about in conspiracy theories. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Sir Arthur Conan Doyle had to speak at a dinner to be accepted as a Freemason. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 The secret handshake in <i>The Valley of Fear</i> is fictional. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Freemasonry dates from the early 1600s. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 The Illuminati have been the subject of recent popular novels. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2 Discussion

- A Make a list of advantages and disadvantages of being in a secret society.
- B Imagine you want to start your own society. Make a list of common values for people in your society.

Example: *Everyone in our society must enjoy reading books.*

INTERNET PROJECT

Secret societies in films and books

Connect to the Internet and go to www.blackcat-cideb.com or www.cideb.it. Insert the title of the book into our search engine.

Open the page for *The Valley of Fear*. Click on the Internet project link. Go down the page until you find the title of this book and click on the relevant links for this project. Find out about a secret society in a film or book. Use the following questions to help you write about it.

- ▶ What is the name of this society?
- ▶ Who started it?
- ▶ Why did they start it?
- ▶ Is it real? If yes, where can you find this society today?

Before you read

1 Vocabulary

Read the sentences (1-6) about Chapter Two. Match the underlined words to a definition (A-F), as in the example.

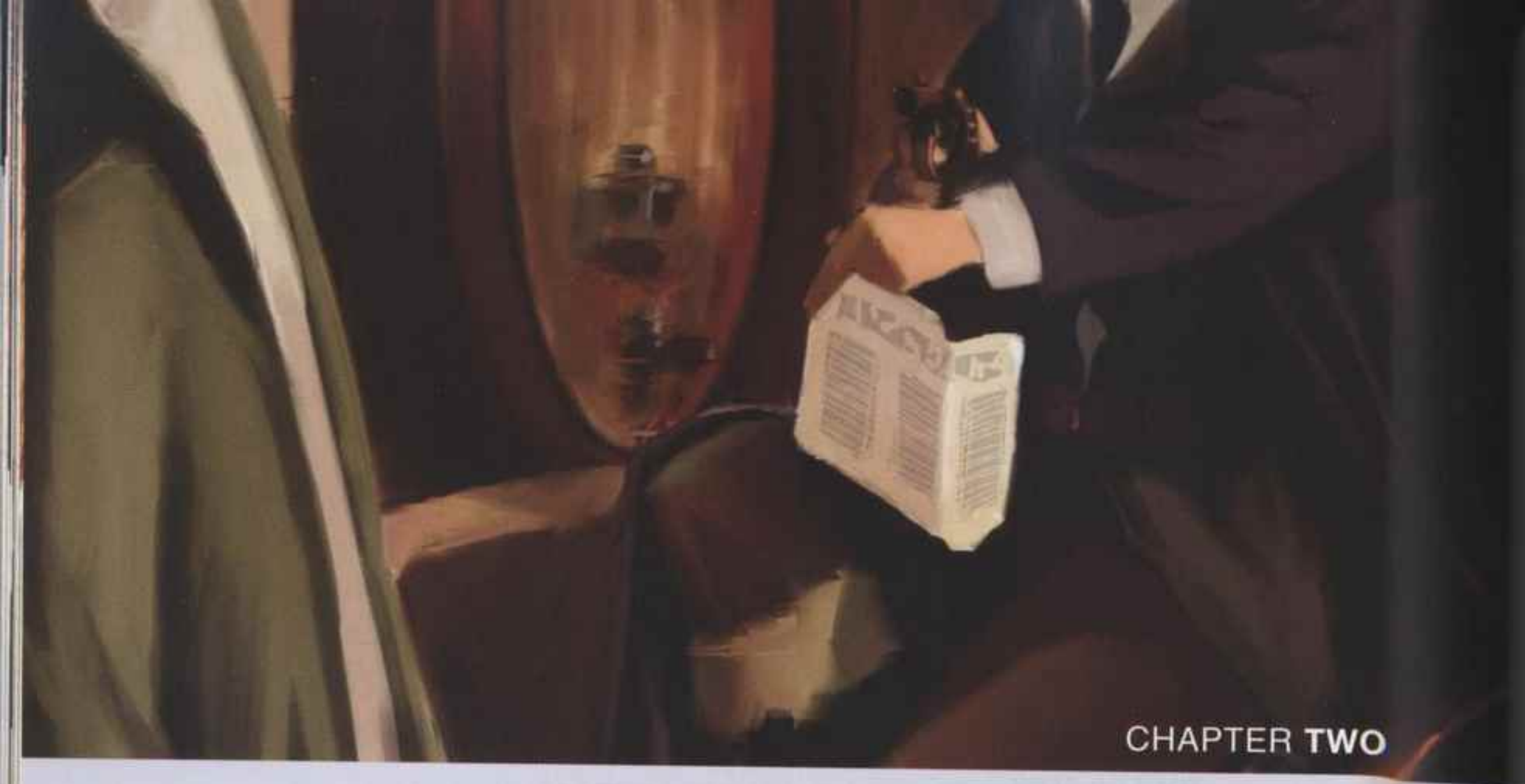
- 1 ☒ D McMurdo finds a job as a bookkeeper.
- 2 ☐ McMurdo promises Ettie that no harm will come to her or her father.
- 3 ☐ When Baldwin arrives, McMurdo wants to fight him.
- 4 ☐ Baldwin pulls up his sleeve and shows McMurdo the mark.
- 5 ☐ McGinty controls everything — taxes, roadworks, the accounts for the area.
- 6 ☐ McMurdo tells him about Chicago and gives him a handful of notes.

- A physical injury or damage
- B repairs to a street
- C the part of a shirt that covers the arm
- D someone who records the money a business takes and spends
- E pieces of paper money
- F to hit or kick someone to try and hurt them

2 Prediction

Discuss the questions below. Use the title, the sentences in exercise one and the pictures on pages 87 and 89 to help you.

- 1 Who comes to visit Ettie?
- 2 What is McMurdo's reaction?
- 3 What does Baldwin show McMurdo?
- 4 Who does McMurdo go to see?
- 5 What do they talk about?



CHAPTER TWO

Meeting Boss McGinty

One evening, Mike Scanlan came to see McMurdo.

'McMurdo, why haven't you been to introduce yourself to Master McGinty?' he asked.

'I had to find a job,' replied McMurdo. 'I'm working as a bookkeeper now.'

Scanlan seemed worried.

'But you have to see Boss McGinty,' he said. 'The lodge isn't the same here as it is in Chicago. Go tonight.'

But someone else wanted to talk to McMurdo that evening. Mr Shafter called McMurdo into his room and asked him about his feelings for Ettie, his daughter.

'It's no good, McMurdo,' said the old man. 'Someone has got there before you.'

'Yes, Ettie told me so, but she won't tell me his name. So who is it?' said McMurdo.

Meeting Boss McGinty

CHAPTER TWO

'It's one of the Scowrers,' said Shafter. 'His name is Teddy Baldwin.'

'Who are these Scowrers? Why are you all so afraid of them?'

'The Scowrers are the Ancient Order of Freeman,' replied the old man.

'But I belong to that order myself,' said McMurdo.

'You! I wouldn't have let you into my house if I had known that!'

'But why? The Order is for charity and friendship, the rules say so.'

'Maybe in some places but not here,' said the old man. 'Here they are a group of murderers. It's bad enough that I have one of these people coming after my Ettie and that I cannot say no to him. I won't have another one staying in my house. You must leave!'

McMurdo went to see Ettie.

'If I had been first Ettie, would I have had a chance?' he asked her.

Ettie started crying. 'Things would have been very different if you'd been the first,' she cried.

'We can't be together because of a promise to someone you don't love? That's wrong, Ettie.'

'But I'm afraid of him, Jack, both for myself and my father. Can't we go away together somewhere else? We can take Father with us!'

'I can't take you away, I can't leave here yet. But I promise you, no harm will come to you or your father. But you may find

that I am as bad as other men, Ettie,' said Jack.

'Oh no, Jack. I trust you,' replied the girl.

The door opened suddenly and a handsome young man walked in. Ettie jumped to her feet looking alarmed.

'I'm glad to see you, Mr Baldwin. You're early. Please sit down.'

Mr Baldwin did not sit down. 'Who's he?' he demanded.

Ettie explained that McMurdo was staying with them.

'Well, McMurdo, this young lady is mine. Perhaps she told you.'

'No, I didn't know there was anything between you.'

'Well, you know now,' replied Baldwin. 'Perhaps you're ready for a fight, Mr McMurdo?'

McMurdo jumped up. 'I am!' he cried. 'Come on, outside!'

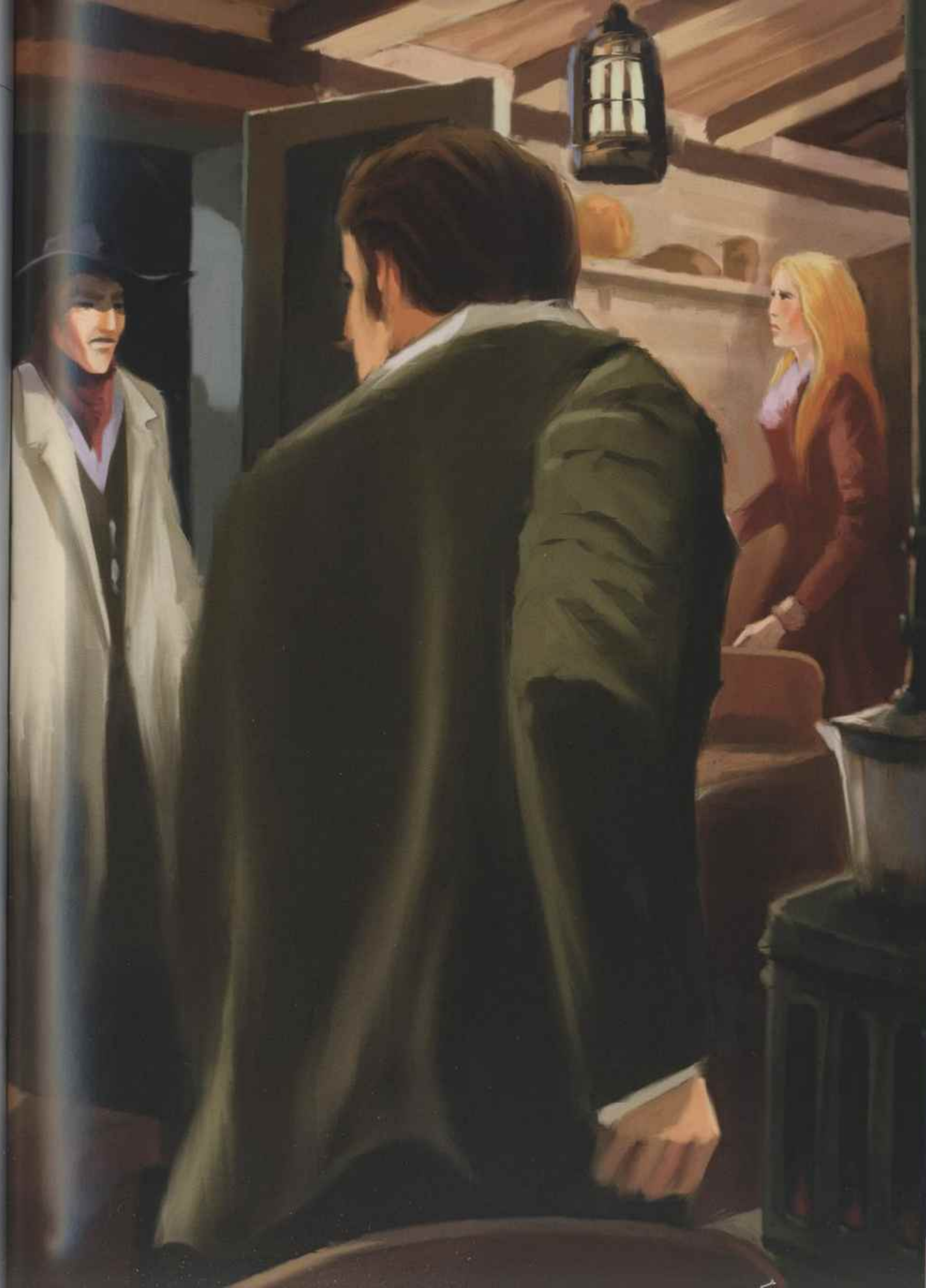
'Oh, Jack, Jack, be careful! He'll hurt you!' cried Ettie.

'Oh, it's "Jack" is it? I see how it is. Well, I'll sort this out without getting into a fight.' He rolled up his sleeve and showed McMurdo a strange mark on his arm. It was a triangle inside a circle. 'Do you know what that means?'

'I don't know and I don't care!'

'Well, you will know, I promise you that. Perhaps Miss Ettie can tell you about it. And you, girl, you'll come back to me, do you hear?' He turned and left the house.

McMurdo decided to go straight down to the Union House and introduce himself to Boss McGinty, whose bar was crowded as usual. Boss McGinty was not an honest man and he was getting richer and richer. As a councillor, he controlled taxes, roadworks



THE VALLEY OF FEAR

PART TWO

and various accounts for the area. The citizens of Vermissa were blackmailed¹ into silence, scared that they might be killed.

McMurdo went into the bar. He saw a tall, strong, heavy-looking man with black hair and a beard who had to be McGinty. He looked friendly, but he had evil eyes. McMurdo walked up to the man, looked him in the eye and introduced himself. He made a signal so that McGinty would know he was also a Freeman.

McGinty looked surprised, but then he took McMurdo to a back room. He sat down and, without saying a word, examined McMurdo carefully. For a couple of minutes he sat in silence. Then, suddenly, he pulled out a gun.

'If this is a game of yours, it won't last long,' said McGinty dangerously.

'That is a strange welcome from one brother to another,' replied McMurdo calmly.

'That's just what you have to prove — that you really are a brother!'

McGinty then asked him some details about where he was made a Freeman and the reason why he had left Chicago. McMurdo gave him a page from a newspaper. McGinty read it quickly; it was about the shooting of a man called Jonas Pinto in the Lake Bar in Chicago in January 1874.

'Did you shoot this man?' asked McGinty. 'Why?'

'I was making fake dollars. This man Pinto was helping me; then he said he wanted to go to the police. Maybe he did but I didn't wait to see. I just shot him and came down here.'

1. **blackmailed** : made to do something by someone who uses threats or intimidating behaviour.



'So can you still make these fake dollars?' asked McGinty. McMurdo gave him a handful of notes. 'Well, these aren't real,' he said. At this moment, Ted Baldwin walked in.

'So, you got here first, McMurdo,' he said angrily.

Boss McGinty wanted to know what the problem was. McMurdo told him about Ettie.

'She's free to choose for herself,' he finished.

'Between two brothers of the lodge, she certainly is,' agreed McGinty.

'And that's your answer?' shouted Ted Baldwin. 'You've known me for years and now you take the side of this newcomer?'

McGinty jumped on him like a tiger. He grabbed¹ his neck and threw him across the room.

'While I'm the Master of this lodge, you had better accept my rules,' he shouted.

Ted Baldwin nodded.

'So we're all friends, right?' said McGinty. 'And there's an end to the matter.'

Ted Baldwin was back on his feet. He nodded again but he did not look happy.

1. **grabbed** : took suddenly and with force.

The text and **beyond**

1 Comprehension check

Complete each of these sentences with information from Chapter Two, Part Two.

- 1 McMurdo had not been to see McGinty because
- 2 Mr Shafter told McMurdo to leave because
- 3 McMurdo promised Ettie that
- 4 Ted Baldwin shows McMurdo
- 5 McMurdo shot the man in Chicago because
- 6 McGinty says that Ettie can

2 Look at these sentences from Chapter Two. Choose the best description – A, B or C – of their meaning.

- 1 He was now working as a bookkeeper.
 A ☐ He had opened a bookshop.
 B ☐ He was a type of accountant.
 C ☐ He worked in a library.
- 2 The Order is for charity and friendship.
 A ☐ Anyone can be a member at no cost.
 B ☐ The Order helps people in difficulty.
 C ☐ The Order is expensive but friendly.
- 3 Ettie jumped to her feet looking alarmed.
 A ☐ She understood that someone was at the door.
 B ☐ She was excited about something.
 C ☐ She seemed to be scared about something.
- 4 Boss McGinty was also a councillor.
 A ☐ He was elected as the head of the town.
 B ☐ He helped people with their problems.
 C ☐ He helped make decisions about town matters.

- 5 'I was printing fake dollars,' said McMurdo.
- A ☐ The money was illegal.
- B ☐ The money was stolen.
- C ☐ The money was not the correct amount.
- 6 The citizens of Vermissa were blackmailed into silence.
- A ☐ The people of the town were silent and so were murdered.
- B ☐ The people of the town paid money to keep criminal activities secret.
- C ☐ The people of the town feared for their lives and so kept silent.

FCE 3 Fill in the gaps

Read the article below and think of the word which best fits each space (1-10). Use only one word in each space. There is an example at the beginning (0).

10th January 1874

Chicago Times

The number (0) *of* deaths connected (1) organised crime continues to rise in the (2) of Chicago.

The victim of another gang-related shooting, Jonas Pinto, was (3) dead in the popular Lake Bar in the city's downtown area. Pinto was shot five times in the chest. The murderer escaped (4) a briefcase believed to contain at (5) \$10,000.

Police sources confirmed that Jonas Pinto had (6) in trouble with the law a number of times for (7) fake dollars. The murder is thought to be connected to an Irish-American gang (8) as the 'Molly Maguires'.

'We are still (9) for our man,' said Inspector O'Leary of the Chicago Police. 'From witnesses' accounts we know he is tall with brown hair and we believe he (10) around 30 years old.'

T: GRADE 7

4 Speaking: national customs

Mr Baldwin asked Mr Shafter if he could marry Ettie and Mr Shafter had to agree because Baldwin was a powerful man. Discuss these questions about marriage.

- 1 Is your family's opinion important in deciding who you marry?
- 2 Do people get married for reasons other than love? Give examples.
- 3 Describe the custom of marriage in your country. What is the ceremony like? How is marriage celebrated?

Before you read

1 Vocabulary

Match these words to their definitions.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1 to roll up | 5 to feel faint |
| 2 applause | 6 widow |
| 3 to gather | 7 to blindfold |
| 4 to nod | 8 to warn |

- A ☐ noise made by people clapping hands
- B ☐ a woman whose husband is dead
- C ☐ to feel weak and about to lose consciousness
- D ☐ to make shorter by pulling up
- E ☐ to cover the eyes with a piece of material
- F ☐ to come together as a group
- G ☐ to move your head up and down to indicate 'yes'
- H ☐ to let someone know of possible danger in the future

12 2 Listening

Cover over page 95 and complete the text below with the words from the previous exercise. Remember to change the form of the word if necessary. You will need to use one word twice. Listen to the first part of Chapter Three to check your answers.

The next day, McMurdo moved from Jacob Shafter's and went to stay with Mrs MacNamara, who was a (1) Scanlan now also worked in Vermissa and so he stayed at the same house. McMurdo was still allowed to go for meals with the Shafter's, so his relationship with Ettie continued to develop.

One Saturday night, McMurdo was made a full brother of the lodge in Vermissa. He was (2) that something might happen to him but he did not know what it was. Many men had (3) for the ceremony. McMurdo was tied up and (4) Then they took off his coat and (5) the sleeve on his right arm.

It was very dark and McMurdo could hear the voices of the men around him. Then he heard Boss McGinty's voice.

'Jack McMurdo, are you a member of the Ancient Order of Freeman?'

McMurdo (6)

'Are you from Lodge No. 29, Chicago?'

Again McMurdo (7)

'Are you ready to be tested?' asked McGinty.

'I am,' replied McMurdo.

'Very well.'

McMurdo wanted to cry out because of the terrible pain in his arm. He (8) but he bit his lip and he did not cry out.

'I can take more than that,' he said. There was loud

(9)

'I welcome you to Lodge 341, Vermissa. Let's drink to our new brother!' said McGinty.

CHAPTER THREE

Lodge 341, Vermissa

The next day, McMurdo moved from Jacob Shafter's and went to stay with Mrs MacNamara, who was a widow. Scanlan now also worked in Vermissa and so he stayed at the same house. McMurdo was still allowed to go for meals with the Shafter's, so his relationship with Ettie continued to develop.

One Saturday night, McMurdo was made a full brother of the lodge in Vermissa. He was warned that something might happen to him but he did not know what it was. Many men had gathered for the ceremony. McMurdo was tied up and blindfolded.¹ Then they took off his coat and rolled up the sleeve on his right arm.

It was very dark and McMurdo could hear the voices of the men around him. Then he heard Boss McGinty's voice.

'Jack McMurdo, are you a member of the Ancient Order of Freeman?'

1. **blindfolded** : a piece of cloth was put over his eyes so he could not see.

McMurdo nodded.

'Are you from Lodge No. 29, Chicago?'

Again McMurdo nodded.

'Are you ready to be tested?' asked McGinty.

'I am,' replied McMurdo.

'Very well.'

McMurdo wanted to cry out because of the terrible pain in his arm. He felt faint but he bit his lip and he did not cry out.

'I can take more than that,' he said. There was loud applause.¹

'I welcome you to Lodge 341, Vermissa. Let's drink to our new brother!' said McGinty.

END

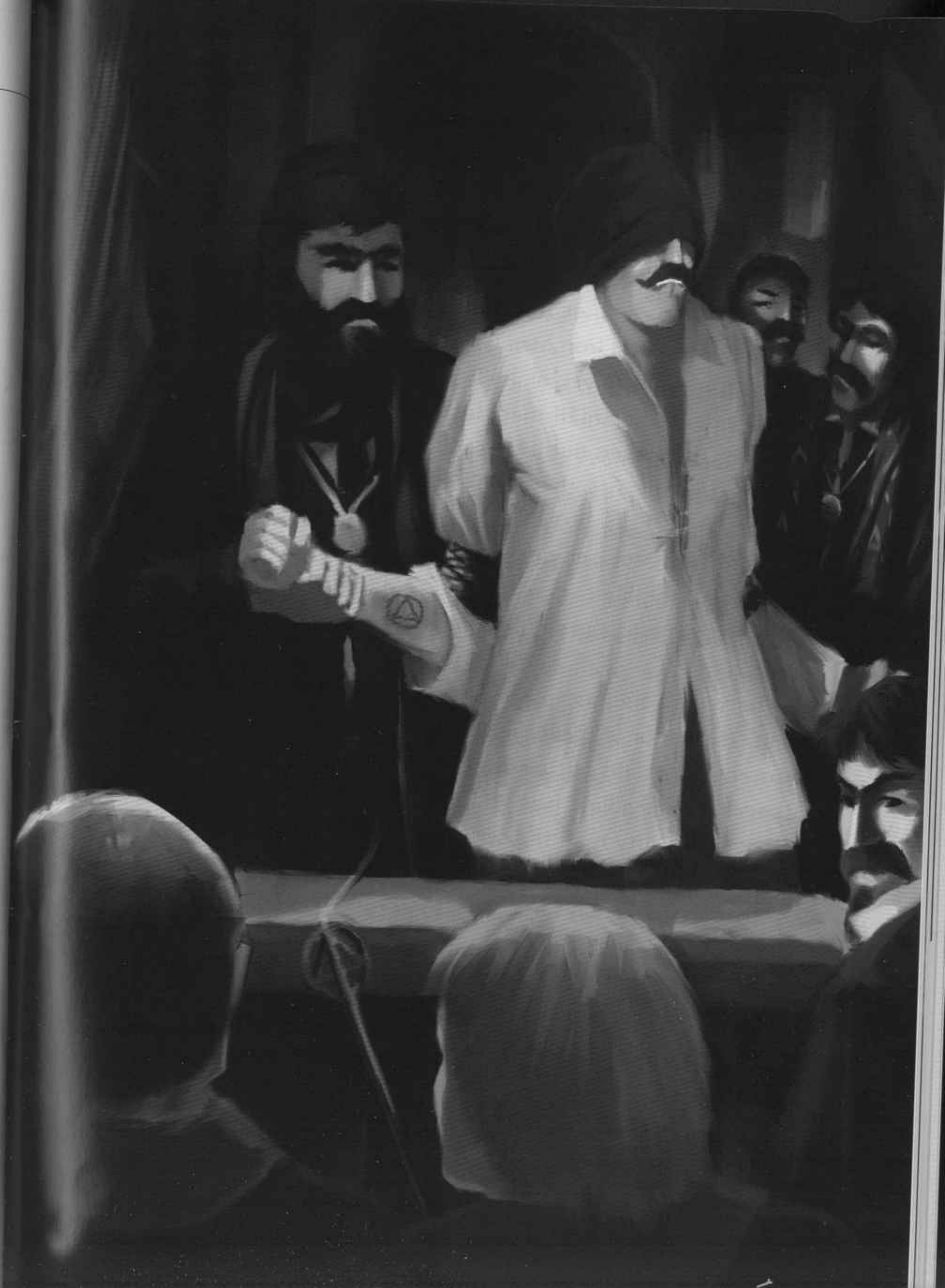
McMurdo took off his blindfold and examined his arm. There was a circle with a triangle in it, burnt deep and red onto his arm.

'So, now to business,' said McGinty. 'How is our bank balance?'

And so McMurdo learnt of the way this community worked. Small companies gave money to the Order so that they were protected. If they did not give money, machinery went wrong, buildings burnt down and men were murdered. Nothing could be proved against the Order as most of the policemen were paid by the society and the others were too scared to do anything. Nobody wanted to give evidence against the Order.

But towards the end of the meeting, another man spoke. Brother Morris told them of how one large company had forced all the smaller companies out of the valley and bought their businesses.

1. **applause** : the clapping together of hands to show approval or agreement.



'I don't see that it matters to us who has bought the businesses, Brother Morris,' said Boss McGinty.

But Brother Morris continued. 'With respect, sir, I think it will matter very much to us in the future. If big companies like the Railroad or General Iron own large parts of this valley, and their bosses are in New York or Philadelphia, they won't care about our threats.¹ The small men can't harm us. They haven't the money or the power. But if these big companies find that we are stopping their profits, they won't stop until they have brought us to justice.'

But McGinty took no notice of Brother Morris.

'I expect the big companies will find it easier to pay than to fight, the same as the small companies,' he said. 'And now, let's drink.'

There was one last piece of business to be sorted out that night. The editor of the local newspaper, the *Herald*, had recently printed an article criticising the lodge. His name was James Stanger. The headline was 'Reign of Terror in the Coal and Iron District'. McGinty read the article to the men, who were by now drunk and restless.

'That's what he says about us. Now what shall we say to him?' he shouted.

'Kill him!' shouted back many voices.

'No, we must be careful. But he must get a severe warning,' ordered McGinty. 'Who will go this evening?'

Ted Baldwin volunteered, with five or six other men.

'Take our new brother with you,' added McGinty. Baldwin did not look pleased. 'You can come if you want,' he said to McMurdo.

It was a very cold night. The men walked through the town and stopped outside a high building.

'You stay down here, McMurdo. Watch the door,' said Baldwin. 'You others come with me.'

The men went in and up some stairs. From the room above came a cry for help, then the sound of crashing chairs. A grey-haired old man rushed out of the room. He was grabbed before he could go any further and his glasses came falling down the stairs to McMurdo's feet. The old man was on his face and the men hit him again and again with sticks. The others stopped, but Baldwin kept attacking the old man, who was now covered in blood.

McMurdo went up and pulled Baldwin away.

'Leave it! You'll kill the man! The boss said that we shouldn't kill him and look what you're doing! We'd better go home.'

The others agreed with McMurdo.

'Hurry!' said one of the men. 'There are lights coming on. All the town will be here in a minute. Run!'

They left the beaten body of the editor on the stairs and moved quickly away up the streets and back to their homes.

1. **threats** : statements and promises of unpleasant behaviour if someone does not do what is wanted.

The text and **beyond****FCE 1 Comprehension check**

For questions 1-5, choose the correct answer — A, B, C or D.

- What happened to McMurdo at the lodge?
 - ☐ He became a member of the Order.
 - ☐ He was welcomed immediately like a brother.
 - ☐ He fainted because they blindfolded him.
 - ☐ The men burnt a mark on his arm.
- Why didn't the police arrest the members of the Order?
 - ☐ Because the Order burnt down their houses.
 - ☐ Because some of them received money from the Order.
 - ☐ Because the Order left no evidence.
 - ☐ Because small companies gave money to the Order.
- Why was Brother Morris worried about the big companies?
 - ☐ These companies wouldn't care about their threats.
 - ☐ These companies would stop their profits.
 - ☐ One company now owned large parts of the valley.
 - ☐ The big companies wanted to fight the little companies.
- Why did the men want to kill the editor?
 - ☐ They were terrified of him.
 - ☐ He had written an article criticising the lodge.
 - ☐ He had not wanted to do business with them.
 - ☐ The local newspaper wrote bad articles about the valley.
- What happened to the editor?
 - ☐ They killed him immediately.
 - ☐ He died later in his room.
 - ☐ Other people in the town came to save him.
 - ☐ They beat him and left him on the stairs.

'We'd better go home.'

We can use the phrase 'had better' plus infinitive without 'to' to give strong advice or tell someone what to do in a specific situation:

You'd better take an umbrella with you today — it's going to rain.

Often we talk about what is the best action for ourselves:

It's getting late — I'd better go.

The negative form is 'had better not'

You'd better not forget my birthday this year!

I'd better not go out this week — I have too much work to do.

2 Had better and had better not

Imagine that you are the character in brackets in each of the sentences below. Write a complete sentence giving the best action for you. Use the phrase 'had better' or 'had better not', depending on each situation. Where possible, give a reason.

- (Cecil Barker) answer all the police's questions
I'd better answer all the police's questions. I don't want them to get suspicious.'
- (the editor) write another article about the Scowrers
- (McMurdo) leave Vermissa Valley
- (Ettie) marry Ted Baldwin
- (Inspector MacDonald) call Sherlock Holmes to help with this case
- (Sergeant Wilson) touch anything until the London police arrive
- (Doctor Watson) tell Holmes about Mrs Douglas's behaviour

3 The Scowrers

Look at the adjectives in the list below. Which ones would you use to describe the Scowrers from what you know of them so far?

stupid greedy brave interesting intelligent
powerful sly sensible violent

- 'If these big companies find that we are stopping their profits they won't stop until they have brought us to justice.'
Using the adjectives from exercise 3, and others of your own, how would you describe Brother Morris's words above?

5 Discussion

'One large company had forced all the smaller companies out of the valley and bought their businesses.'

- 1 Think about where you buy your goods: e.g. clothes, food, technological items, etc. Do you buy from small shops or big chain stores? Why?
- 2 What can happen when a big business comes to a small town or village? Do you think it creates more advantages or disadvantages?
- 3 What do you think is most important for businesses today?
 - A to make a big profit
 - B to keep customers happy
 - C to be ethical and responsible

6 Vocabulary

Put the following prepositions in the correct sentences below. You will need to use some of them more than once.

up off out down

- 1 They rolled his sleeve and burnt a symbol onto McMurdo's arm.
- 2 Finally, they took McMurdo's blindfold.
- 3 Even though it was very painful, McMurdo didn't cry
- 4 As soon as he came in, they tied him so that he couldn't move.
- 5 They managed to sort all the problems in the end.
- 6 If you don't pay the Scowrrers, they will burn your house.

7 'They took off his coat'

'Take' + preposition or adverb can have many different meanings. Look at the examples in the sentences below. Can you match them to their meanings (A-G)?

- 1 ☐ He decided to **take up** tennis at the beginning of the year.
- 2 ☐ The policeman listened to the witness's account and **took down** all his details.

- 3 ☐ The customer's fake money looked so real — he **took us in** completely.
- 4 ☐ It was difficult at first but now he's really starting to **take to** his new school.
- 5 ☐ She **takes after** her father in many ways.
- 6 ☐ We waited on the runway for about an hour before we finally **took off**.
- 7 ☐ The big companies have completely **taken over** the small businesses in the valley.
- 8 ☐ I'm sorry, I was very angry when we spoke last night — I **take back** everything I said.

- A to leave the ground and start flying
- B to begin to like something/someone
- C to make someone believe something which is not true
- D to write something on paper
- E to start a new activity
- F to win control of something
- G to be similar to a older family member
- H to admit that something you said was wrong

Now write some sentences of your own using the phrasal verbs above.

Before you read

13 1 Listening

Listen to the beginning of Chapter Four and decide whether the following sentences are true (T) or false (F). Then read the text and correct the false ones.

- 1 McMurdo did not feel well that morning.
- 2 McMurdo went to work.
- 3 McMurdo did not know who wrote the note.
- 4 Brother Morris had murdered someone for the lodge.
- 5 McMurdo advised Brother Morris to move away.
- 6 Brother Morris wanted McMurdo to work in his shop.

T	F
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



CHAPTER FOUR

The Valley of Fear

When McMurdo woke up the next morning, his head ached and his arm was very painful from the mark. Because he had his own illegal way of making money, he did not always go to work and this morning was one of those times. He sat and read the paper. There was an article about last night's events. 'Editor Seriously Injured at the *Herald* Office' was the headline. McMurdo put down the newspaper. The landlady bought him a note. It read 'I want to speak to you. Meet me on Miller Hill. I have something important to tell you.' The note was not signed. McMurdo was surprised but decided to go.

When he got to the hill, Brother Morris was waiting for him.

'I wanted to ask you something. But please don't tell Boss McGinty. When you joined the Freemen's Society did you think that it would lead you to a life of crime?' he asked.

'If you call it crime,' said McMurdo. 'Some call it war.'

'Of course it's crime,' cried Morris. 'When I arrived here, I wanted to do the best for myself and my family. But then I was forced to join the lodge and ordered to carry out a murder. I went but I couldn't do it. But it made me a criminal. I was a good Catholic but now the priest will no longer speak to me. I see you going the same way. Can't we do anything to stop it?'

'What are you going to do?' asked McMurdo. 'I think you're making too much of this.'

'Too much? Wait until you've been here longer. Then you'll understand how it is. There is a cloud over this valley, a cloud of murder. It is the Valley of Fear, the Valley of Death. These people are terrified from morning until night. Wait and you'll see.'

'I'll tell you when I've seen more. You're not the man for this place, that's clear. Why don't you sell your business and leave? What you have said is safe with me. I'm going now.'

'Just one thing. Perhaps someone has seen us together. McGinty will want to know what we're talking about. Tell him that I offered you a job in my shop.'

'Good thinking. And I refused your offer. Goodbye Brother Morris.'

The same afternoon, McGinty came to McMurdo's house and asked why he had been with Morris. McMurdo told him the story.

'Did Morris say anything against the lodge?' asked McGinty.

McMurdo told him that he had not. Just as McGinty was about to leave, the door crashed open and Captain Marvin of the police walked in with two other policemen.

'You're coming with me, McMurdo. Take his gun,' said Marvin.

THE VALLEY OF FEAR

PART TWO

'What have I done?' asked McMurdo.

'You can't do this,' said McGinty.

'You stay out of this, Councillor,' said the policeman. Then he turned to McMurdo. 'You were involved in the beating of Mr Stanger at the *Herald* office last night.'

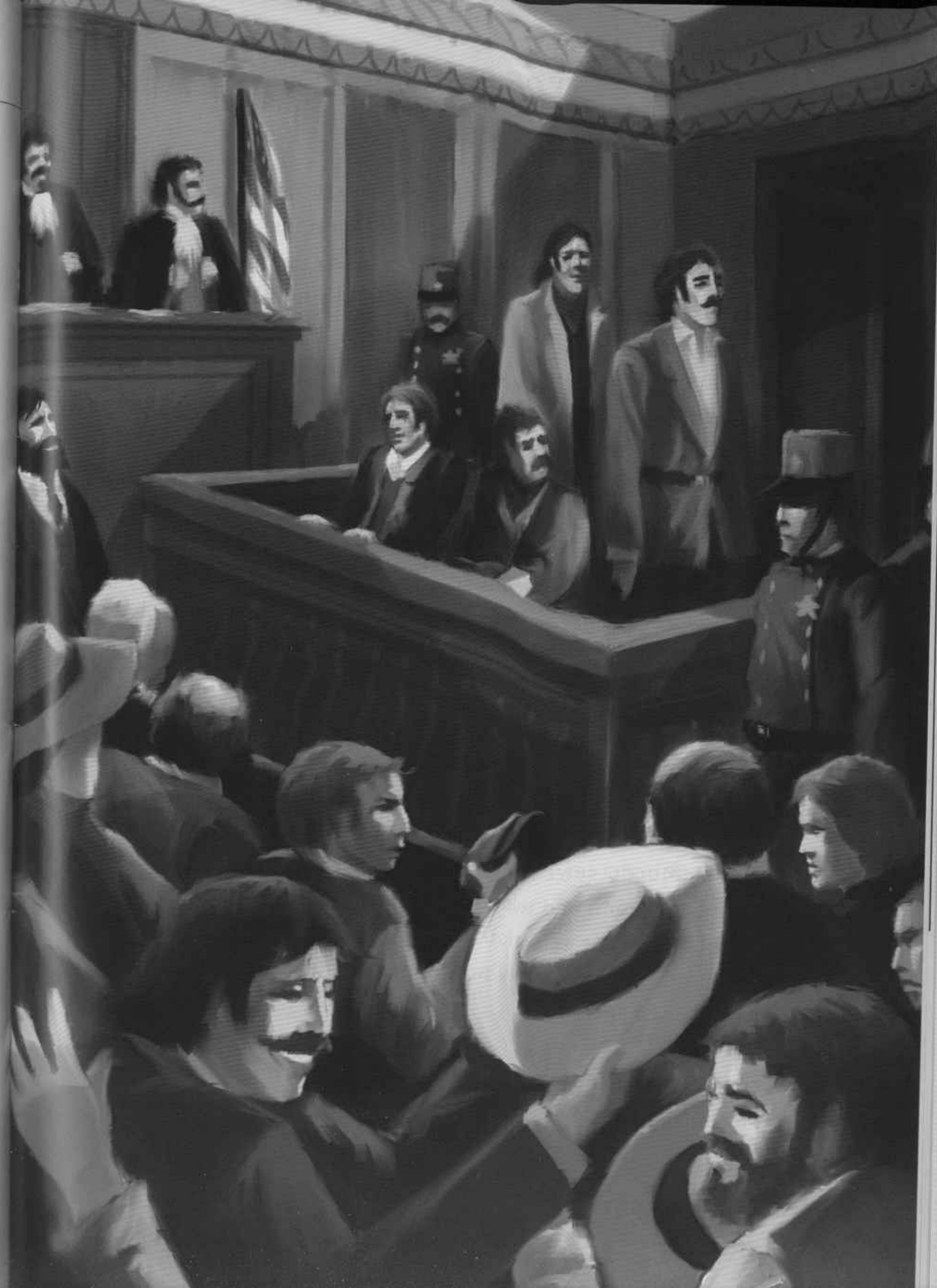
'Well, he can't have been,' said McGinty. 'This man was at my bar all night playing cards with me.'

'Well, we'll see about that in court,' replied Marvin. 'Come on, you're coming with me.'

But the Freeman had power even over the courts. The next morning in court, the witnesses were uncertain as to the identity of the men who had attacked Mr Stanger. Stanger himself said that he was so taken by surprise that he did not see his attackers. McMurdo was released. The court was full of brothers who cheered¹ and applauded. But there were others there who looked less happy. One man shouted as they went out, 'You murderers! We'll catch you yet!'

McMurdo's arrest made him even more popular in Vermissa. Only Ted Baldwin and a few other members of the lodge did not like him. But McMurdo also lost favour with another person far more important to him: Ettie. Her father wanted nothing to do with him. Ettie was very much in love with McMurdo but her common sense told her that it was better not to marry a criminal. She decided to go and see him one last time, to try to get him away from the evil influence of the lodge.

1. **cheered** : shouted loudly to show approval or agreement.



'But you don't know what you're asking me! Do you think the lodge will let a man go free knowing all its secrets?'

'But I've thought of that. Father has some money saved up and he is ready to leave this place. Let's go together to New York or Philadelphia.'

'But they have lodges there too. We can't get away that easily,' said McMurdo.

'Well, to England or Sweden or anywhere to get away from this Valley of Fear!'

'Look, Ettie, the best I can say is that in six months or so, I'll find a way so that we can leave here with no problems.'

'Really? Six months?' Ettie was happy. 'Is that a promise?'

'I promise,' said McMurdo.

Life in the valley continued as before. The Scowrers murdered people and terrorised the district. McMurdo was given a job of his own to do; he had to blow up¹ the house of a man named Chester Wilcox. There was no other way of doing it except at night when his wife and two small children were also in the house. McMurdo set the explosives and the house blew up. However, someone had told Wilcox that he was in danger, and the night before the explosion he and his family moved to a safe place. But in general, life had never seemed so hopeless and dark in the Valley of Fear.

One Saturday evening in May, Brother Morris came to see McMurdo again.

1. **blow up** : destroy with an explosion.

'I must speak to you,' he said. 'I spoke to you once before and you didn't tell McGinty so I know I can trust you. I have something to tell you.'

The man was white and shaking. McMurdo gave him some whisky and waited.

'There's a detective after us,' he said. 'You've heard of Pinkerton's? ¹ When they send a man after you, they don't stop until they have what they want. The lodge will be finished.'

'We must kill him,' said McMurdo at once. 'Who is he? Where is he? How do you know about him? Tell me the facts.'

Morris answered all McMurdo's questions. 'His name is Birdy Edwards, but here he is using Steve Wilson as his name. He's staying in Hobson's Patch. I know because I have a friend who works for the telegraph service. He told me about him. Those big corporations have hired Pinkerton's best man!'

'Leave this to me,' said McMurdo. 'Don't worry.'

McMurdo went to the Shafter's. He told Ettie the news and asked her if she was willing to go with him when the time came to leave.

'Day or night, Jack, I'll be ready when you come for me,' she said.

1. **Pinkerton's** : Pinkerton National Detective Agency, founded by Alan Pinkerton in 1850.

The text and **beyond**

1 Comprehension check

Answer the questions.

- Who gave McMurdo the note?
- What did Brother Morris ask McMurdo?
- What did McMurdo say to McGinty about his meeting with Brother Morris?
- What did the witnesses say in court?
- What did McMurdo promise Ettie?
- Why did Chester Wilcox leave his house?
- What did Brother Morris tell McMurdo in their second meeting?
- What did Ettie and McMurdo plan to do?

2 Jack McMurdo

Make a list in the table below of at least three more things that McMurdo does that are good and/or bad in your opinion.

Good things	Bad things
1 He stops Ted Baldwin from killing the editor.	He becomes a member of the lodge when he knows they are a criminal organisation.
2	
3	
4	

3 Who said what?

Who says these things in Chapter Four? Match sentences 1-5 to the correct character and their reasons for saying these things (A-E). You will need to use one character twice.

Boss McGinty Ettie Shafter Brother Morris a man in court

- 'Can't we do anything to stop it?'
- 'This man was at my bar... playing cards.'

- 'You murderers! We'll catch you yet!'
- 'The lodge will be finished.'
- 'I'll be ready when you come for me.'

- A ☐ He was angry because McMurdo went free because of the lodge's power.
- B ☐ He knew Pinkerton's men would not stop until they had what they wanted.
- C ☐ He was unhappy about the lodge's criminal activities.
- D ☐ She had agreed to go with Jack when it was time to leave.
- E ☐ He wanted to provide a cover for McMurdo.

4 Active or passive?

Complete the newspaper article in the past tense using the correct form (active or passive) of the verb in brackets.

Editor Seriously Injured at the *Herald* Office

The editor of the *Herald* (1) (report) to be in hospital after he (2) (leave) seriously injured following a violent attack by several men last night.

The attackers were armed with sticks and hard metal objects. The men (3) (break) Mr Stanger's arms and legs in several places and (4) (leave) him unconscious. Mr Stanger (5) (find) by a neighbour this morning outside his apartment.

The identity of the attackers is unknown and the Vermissa police have been investigating the reasons for the attack. The attack (6) (believe) to be in connection with an article that (7) (write) by the editor in the *Herald* on Saturday and talked about recent developments in the area. Mr Stanger did not want to talk about the attack but he (8) (tell) reporters that the opinions and facts that (9) (write) in the article were the result of his own investigations, and they did not reflect the opinions and views of the owner of the newspaper. The investigation continues.

FCE 5 Pinkerton's National Detective Agency

You are going to read about Pinkerton's National Detective Agency. Four paragraphs have been removed. Choose from the paragraphs A-E the one that best fits each gap. There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use. The first one has been done for you.

Allan Pinkerton was the son of a Scottish policeman. Pinkerton left Scotland for America after they tried to arrest him for his political activities.

1 D

As well as his activities for these companies, he found large amounts of stolen money, investigated some of the world's most notorious criminals and found the group of people who planned to murder Abraham Lincoln in 1861.

2

In the 1870s, the president of an important railroad company hired Pinkerton's agency to investigate some problems in the company's mines. In particular they were asked to investigate a group of men called the Molly Macguires.

3

Even so, Pinkerton managed, with the help of one of his agents, James McCanna, to bring some of their members to justice.

4

The Pinkerton National Detective Agency still exists and in 2000 it donated a large amount of material about famous suspects to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington.

- A Many of the 'Mollies' (as members of the group were known) were part of a secret society also known as the Ancient Order of Hibernians. They were involved in politics in Ireland and it was very difficult to prove their involvement in crime.
- B When the American government formed the Federal Bureau of Investigation (the FBI) in 1908, Pinkerton's methods were so popular that they decided to use them too.
- C Pinkerton was well-respected and soon found work with the big coal and iron companies. They often hired him when there were violent protests with their workers, but he preferred other types of work.

- D Pinkerton started 'Pinkerton's National Detective Agency' in 1850. His detectives were used as policeman and guards to protect the interests of the big coal and iron industries in the areas of Chicago, Michigan and New York.
- E Often the criminals knew of Pinkerton and his men and they knew that he would not rest until he found his man. They were scared of him and his reputation.

Before you read**1 Prediction**

Get rich! Read the sentences about what might happen next. Then use the dollar signs below to show how strongly you agree with each one.

\$\$\$ I agree strongly — all of this will definitely happen.

\$\$ I agree in part — some things will happen, some things won't.


\$ I disagree — none of this will happen.

After you have read Chapter Five, give yourself the same number of dollars for every question you got right — the person with the most dollars wins! You can check your answers against the key on page 127.

- 1 ☐ ☐ ☐ An investigator offers McMurdo some money to tell him about the Scowrrers. McMurdo agrees and says he will give him some information that night.
- 2 ☐ ☐ ☐ McMurdo tells them that he is the journalist, Steve Wilson. He has put all their secrets on a cassette and he is going to write a newspaper article about them.
- 3 ☐ ☐ ☐ McGinty tries to kill McMurdo. The police come and arrest McGinty and he goes to jail for 10 years.
- 4 ☐ ☐ ☐ McMurdo is really Mr Douglas. He came to England to hide from the members of the lodge.
- 5 ☐ ☐ ☐ The dead man was Ted Baldwin from the lodge. Mr Barker is taken to prison for his murder.
- 6 ☐ ☐ ☐ John Douglas dies. The police suspect Moriarty is involved but they can do nothing for the moment.



Birdy Edwards's Trap

- 1** Later that evening, McMurdo went to the lodge. As it was Saturday, the brothers were already there. Jack went to his seat. 

'Master,' he said. 'I have urgent news.'

McMurdo told them what he knew and what he planned to do about it.

'There's only one answer,' said McMurdo.

'Birdy Edwards must never leave the valley,' said Baldwin.

'Exactly,' agreed McMurdo. 'Here's what we'll do.'

He told them his plan. Birdy Edwards was pretending to be a journalist called Steve Wilson. He had spoken to McMurdo, offering him money for information on the Scowrrers. McMurdo had told him some stories that he had made up and Wilson gave him twenty dollars. Wilson offered him more money for more information. McMurdo arranged for Wilson to come to his house

Birdy Edwards's Trap

CHAPTER FIVE

so that he could tell him all the secrets of the lodge in exchange for more money. Wilson was to come to Mrs MacNamara's house at ten o'clock. The house was isolated and Mrs MacNamara did not hear very well. Seven of the other Freeman were to come to the house at nine o'clock, ready for Mr Wilson.

'Once we get the door shut behind him, that'll be the end of Birdy Edwards,' said McMurdo.

- 2** McMurdo returned home and prepared for the evening ahead. He cleaned and oiled his gun. He spoke to Scanlan who was also staying at the house. Although he was a Scowrrer, Scanlan did not like what the men did. McMurdo told him to go out that evening and stay away until the morning.

The seven Freeman, including Boss McGinty, arrived at nine o'clock. McMurdo put the whisky on the table and the men began to drink, ready for the job that was ahead of them.

'Maybe he won't come, maybe he knows there's danger,' said one of the men.

'Don't worry, he'll come,' said McMurdo. 'Listen!'

There were three loud knocks on the door.

'Be quiet!' whispered McMurdo to the others. He went down the passage to the door. The others heard McMurdo open the door, then an unfamiliar voice. Then they heard the door close. Birdy Edwards was inside. The door opened and McMurdo reappeared. He came to the end of the table and looked at the men. He said nothing.

- 3** 'Well,' said McGinty impatiently, 'is he here?'

'Yes,' replied McMurdo slowly. 'Birdy Edwards is here. I am Birdy Edwards!'



The room was silent. Then the windows were suddenly broken and guns were pointing in through them. McGinty jumped up from his chair and ran for the door, but Captain Marvin of the police appeared and pointed his gun at him.

'Stay where you are, McGinty,' said the man they had known as McMurdo. 'Take their guns, Marvin!'

The men could do nothing. They were trapped. They sat around the table, staring at McMurdo with confusion and hatred in their eyes.

'I'd like to speak to you before we leave,' said the man who had trapped them. 'I am Birdy Edwards of Pinkerton's Detective Agency. I was chosen to break up your gang. It's taken me a long time and it's been hard and dangerous, but I've won!'

- 4 'Maybe you think the game isn't over yet. I'll take my chances. You and sixty more of you will be in prison tonight. Before I took this job, I never believed that there was a society like yours. In Chicago, the society of Freemen weren't bad men. I never killed a

man in Chicago, I never printed any false money. I gave Chester Wilcox a warning so that when I blew up his house, he and his family were already gone.'

'You traitor!' ¹ shouted McGinty.

'You can call me a traitor, but there are many people in this valley who will call me a saviour. ² I've been here three months in order to get to know every man and every secret. I never want to live another three months like it, not for all the money in the world. Now, Captain Marvin, take them away.'

5 Scanlan had delivered a note to Ettie and her father. The two left the Valley of Fear and never went back. Ten days later, Ettie and Birdy Edwards were married in Chicago.

The trial of the Scowrers was held and McGinty was hanged, along with eight others. Many other men went to prison. Birdy Edwards's job was done.

6 But, as he had thought, it was not over. Ted Baldwin was not sentenced to death. He was in prison for ten years, but when he came out, he spent all his time looking for Birdy Edwards. Birdy Edwards changed his name again and moved to California and it was there that Ettie Edwards died. He took the name John Douglas and was nearly killed when he was working in the mining industry with an English partner named Barker. A warning came just in time and Douglas left for England, where he married for the second time. And so we return to Sussex, and the fate of John Douglas.

At the trial, John Douglas was freed for having acted in self defence. But Holmes's advice was to leave England.

1. **traitor** : someone who has not been loyal to a person or ideal.

2. **saviour** : someone who saves a person from danger.

Two months had gone by and we had nearly forgotten about the case. But then, one night, a message arrived for Holmes. All it said was 'Dear me, Mr Holmes! Dear me!' It was from Moriarty.

7 Holmes looked very serious. Later that night, Cecil Barker came to visit us.

'I have very bad news, Mr Holmes,' he said.

'I thought so,' said Holmes.

'It's poor Douglas. They tell me his real name is Edwards, but he'll always be Douglas to me. I told you that they left for South Africa three weeks ago?'

Holmes nodded.

'I received this message from Mrs Douglas last night: "John has been lost overboard. ¹ No one knows how the accident occurred. Ivy Douglas".'

'It was no accident,' said Holmes.

'He was murdered? These Scowrers, these criminals, why couldn't they leave him alone—'

8 'No, no,' interrupted Holmes. 'There has been a master at work here. This is the work of Moriarty.'

'But what has he to do with all this?'

'The Americans had a job to do in England. Like any other criminals they asked Moriarty for help. From that moment, John Douglas was doomed.' ²

'But what can be done? Can't this Moriarty be stopped?' asked Barker.

'Oh yes,' said Holmes, 'he can be stopped — I just need more time.'

1. **lost overboard** : lost over the side of a ship and into the sea.

2. **John...doomed** : something terrible was certain to happen to him.

The text and **beyond**

1 Summary

Chapter Five has been divided into eight parts. Choose from the list (A-I) the sentence which best summarises each part. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

- A ☐ The lodge kills the traitors.
- B ☐ The real identity of McMurdo is revealed.
- C ☐ Can Professor Moriarty be stopped?
- D ☐ Leaving England is not enough to save Douglas.
- E ☐ McMurdo explains his plan.
- F ☐ 'Jack' keeps his promise to Ettie.
- G ☐ The men sit and wait.
- H ☐ Maybe now peace will come to the valley at last.
- I ☐ A new life and a new name.

2 Question words

Complete the questions (1-10) with the correct question word: *what, why, when, where, who*. Then answer the questions you have made.

- 1 was Birdy Edwards pretending to be?
- 2 were the men going to do when the investigator arrived at the house?
- 3 did McMurdo tell Scanlan to leave the house until morning?
- 4 did the seven Freeman arrive?
- 5 happened to Boss McGinty?
- 6 died in California?
- 7 was John Douglas working when he met Cecil Barker?
- 8 did Holmes advise John Douglas to do?
- 9 was John Douglas's real name?
- 10 was helping the Americans to find John Douglas?

3 Interpretation

Choose the answer closest to your opinion. Give reasons for your answers.

- 1 Who do you think is the most important character in the story?
 - A ☐ Sherlock Holmes
 - B ☐ Birdy Edwards
 - C ☐ Dr Watson
- 2 Which of these is a major theme in the story?
 - A ☐ Violence and betrayal.
 - B ☐ A sense of duty.
 - C ☐ Loyalty and a belief in justice.
- 3 Why do you think no one was able to catch Moriarty?
 - A ☐ He probably had a powerful position.
 - B ☐ He was too clever to be caught.
 - C ☐ The government did not want him to be caught.

- 4 Look at your answers to exercise 2, Chapter Four of Part Two. After reading Chapter Five have your opinions changed about some of the 'bad things' McMurdo did?

FCE 5 Early American gangs

Read the text below and decide which answer – A, B, C or D – best fits each space. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Conan Doyle wrote *The Valley of Fear* shortly before a (0) in American history called Prohibition. During Prohibition it was illegal to sell alcohol. (1) gangs became very powerful by making alcohol and through other illegal activities.

The most famous gangs of this time came from Chicago, but there were also gangs in New York. (2) before Prohibition the police knew about these gangs. During the day these men had 'honest' (3), but at night they terrorised entire areas and cities. They had positions in the local government and they (4) the police. Stories of their activities also reached local newspapers.

One of the most famous gang bosses (5) the period of Prohibition was Al Capone. For a time, Capone controlled the city of Chicago. He and his men paid city officials, (6) city companies and murdered people who wanted to speak out against them. Capone's power over the city came to an (7) when a detective from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (the FBI), Eliot Ness, was able to find enough evidence to take him to court. Several people tried to murder Ness during his (8) but they did not succeed. He wrote a book about his involvement with Al Capone called *The Untouchables*.

- | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| 0 A age | B part | © period | D times |
| 1 A numbered | B more | C several | D famous |
| 2 A even | B therefore | C rather | D however |
| 3 A job | B work | C labour | D professions |
| 4 A corrupt | B told | C paid | D fight |
| 5 A of | B during | C while | D as |
| 6 A having | B buy | C belonged | D owned |
| 7 A end | B finish | C terminate | D conclusion |
| 8 A escape | B time | C life | D job |

FCE 6 Writing

You see this announcement in your school magazine.

Crime and mystery reading club

Have you read a detective story recently? If so, why not write a review for our members? Include information on the story, the setting and the characters involved. Say what you found interesting about it and whether you recommend it to members of our club.

All reviews will be published next month.

Write your review of *The Valley of Fear* (120-180 words).

INTERNET PROJECT

Gangster and detective films

When Sherlock Holmes wrote *The Valley of Fear*, some early films about American gangs already existed. These were silent films about organised crime, criminals and the detectives that tried to stop them. Some more recent films about detectives trying to end the power of societies and gangs include: *The Untouchables* (1987) (based on Eliot Ness's book) and *Donnie Brasco* (1997).

Follow the instructions for the Internet project on page 82 and find out about these two films.

- ▶ Who were the directors?
- ▶ Who were the main actors that starred in these films? Did they play the criminals or the detective?
- ▶ Did either of these films win any special awards?

Now research your favourite gangster or detective film and answer the questions below.

- ▶ What is the name of the film and who was the director?
- ▶ Who is the criminal? Who is the detective? Which actors play these characters?
- ▶ What does the detective do to catch the criminal?
- ▶ Describe your favourite scene in this film and say why you like it.



1 Picture summary

Look at the pictures from *The Valley of Fear* below. They are not in the right order. Put them in the order in which they appear in the story.



2 A graphic novel

Photocopy these two pages, cut out the pictures and stick them on paper in the right order. Think of words to put in speech or thought bubbles to show what the characters are saying or thinking. Do not use the words that were used in this book! Then write at least one sentence under each picture to narrate what is happening.

3 Discussion

In order to get information to break up the society known as the Scowrers, Birdy Edwards had to work 'undercover': he used a false name and invented a new character for himself. When he finished the job he said 'I never want to live another three months like it, not for all the money in the world.' Think about the following questions and discuss them with a partner.

- 1 Apart from a detective, can you think of any other job that requires you to work undercover?
- 2 Why do you think people want to work undercover? What difficulties could there be with this type of work?
- 3 What qualities do you think you need in order to work undercover?
- 4 Do you know any examples of people in fiction, films or real life who have worked undercover?

4 Vocabulary

Can you remember these words from the text? Find the word for each clue and use them to complete the crossword puzzle.

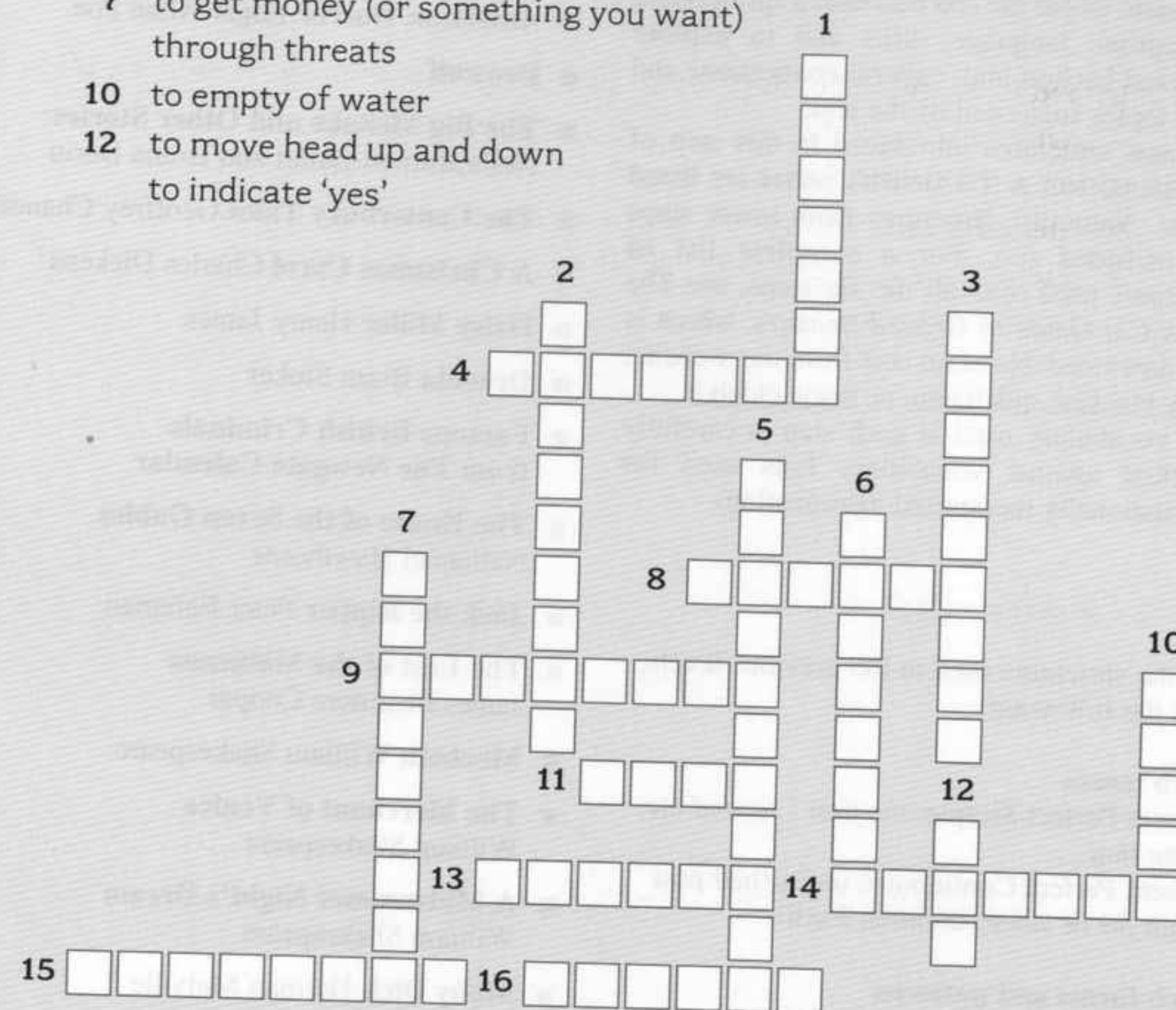
Across

- 4 we use this to cover up cuts
- 8 male servant
- 9 clapping together of hands to show approval
- 11 to walk through water
- 13 to destroy with an explosion
- 14 used for killing birds and animals
- 15 type of weight used for exercising
- 16 people who work underground

Down

- 1 man whose wife is dead
- 2 to tie a piece of material over the eyes
- 3 mark left by a foot or shoe
- 5 female servant
- 6 footwear usually worn at home

- 7 to get money (or something you want) through threats
- 10 to empty of water
- 12 to move head up and down to indicate 'yes'



1 \$\$. 2 \$. 3 \$. 4 \$. 5 \$. 6 \$\$. 7 \$\$. 8 \$\$. 9 \$\$. 10 \$\$. 11 \$\$. 12 \$\$. 13 \$\$. 14 \$\$. 15 \$\$. 16 \$.

Key to exercise 1, page 113

6 Marilyn Monroe, B.

1 Pele, D; 2 Elton John, A; 3 Steven King, C; 4 Whoopi Goldberg, B; 5 Bono, A;

Key to names quiz, page 19

This reader uses the **EXPANSIVE READING** approach, where the text becomes a springboard to improve language skills and to explore historical background, cultural connections and other topics suggested by the text.

The new structures introduced in this step of our **READING & TRAINING** series are listed below. Naturally, structures from lower steps are included too. For a complete list of structures used over all the six steps, see *The Black Cat Guide to Graded Readers*, which is also downloadable at no cost from our website, www.blackcat-cideb.com or www.cideb.it.

The vocabulary used at each step is carefully checked against vocabulary lists used for internationally recognised examinations.

Step Four B2.1

All the structures used in the previous levels, plus the following:

Verb tenses

Present Perfect Simple: *the first / second etc. time that ...*

Present Perfect Continuous: unfinished past with *for* or *since* (duration form)

Verb forms and patterns

Passive forms: Present Perfect Simple
Reported speech introduced by precise reporting verbs (e.g. *suggest, promise, apologise*)

Modal verbs

Be / get used to + -ing: habit formation
Had better: duty and warning

Types of clause

3rd Conditional: *if + Past Perfect, would(n't) have*

Conditionals with *may / might*

Non-defining relative clauses with: *which, whose*

Clauses of concession: *even though; in spite of; despite*

Available at Step Four:

- **American Horror** Edgar Allan Poe
- **Beowulf**
- **The Big Mistake and Other Stories**
Nella Burnett-Stuart and Bruna Deriu
- **The Canterbury Tales** Geoffrey Chaucer
- **A Christmas Carol** Charles Dickens
- **Daisy Miller** Henry James
- **Dracula** Bram Stoker
- **Famous British Criminals from The Newgate Calendar**
- **The House of the Seven Gables**
Nathaniel Hawthorne
- **Jack the Ripper** Peter Foreman
- **The Last of the Mohicans**
James Fenimore Cooper
- **Macbeth** William Shakespeare
- **The Merchant of Venice**
William Shakespeare
- **A Midsummer Night's Dream**
William Shakespeare
- **Moby Dick** Herman Melville
- **The Moonstone** Wilkie Collins
- **Le Morte d'Arthur** Sir Thomas Malory
- **Much Ado About Nothing**
William Shakespeare
- **Othello** William Shakespeare
- **The Secret Agent** Joseph Conrad
- **The Sign of Four** Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- **A Study in Scarlet** Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- **Tom Jones** Henry Fielding
- **The Tragedy of Dr Faustus**
Christopher Marlowe
- **The Turn of the Screw** Henry James
- **The Valley of Fear** Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- **Washington Square** Henry James
- **Wicked and Humorous Tales** Saki
- **The Woman in White** Wilkie Collins